FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-079
Monday
25 April 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-079 CONTENTS *25 April 1994*

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Apr 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin 'Grieving' Over Nixon's Death *[Moscow TV]* 1
  Further Yeltsin Tribute to Nixon *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Duma Protests Joint U.S. Military Exercises *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Grachev: Partnership Program 'Overpublicized' *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Kozyrev on 'More Substantial' Partnership Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Grachev Urges End to Threat of Bosnia Air Strikes *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Platoon To Join Peacekeepers in Gorazde *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Bosnian Serb Leaders Meet State Duma Delegation *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Yeltsin Writes to Izetbegovic on Bosnia Situation *[Sarajevo Radio]* 3
Kozyrev on Peaceful Settlement in Bosnia *[Moscow TV]* 3
Federation Council Endorses Yugoslavia Policy *[INTERFAX]* 4
Security Council Official Views Bosnian Solution *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Churkin Interviewed on Bosnia Situation *[Moscow TV]* 4
Date for Yeltsin Trip to Ukraine Undecided *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Yeltsin Aide on 'Serious Danger' Posed by Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Russia Insists on Basing Fleet at Sevastopol *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Grachev Charges Ukraine Privatizing Navy Facilities *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Grachev Dissatisfied With Black Sea Fleet Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Grachev on 'Unconstructive' Ukrainian Standpoint *[Moscow TV]* 7
Latest Attempt To Divide Black Sea Fleet Reported *[IZVESTIYA 22 Apr]* 8
Fleet Issue Seen Driving Ukraine Into Corner *[SEGODNYA 24 Apr]* 8
Israel's Rabin Interviewed on Eve of Visit *[TRUD 22 Apr]* 9
Israeli Prime Minister's Visit Previewed *[INTERFAX]* 9
Israeli Prime Minister Rabin Begins Visit to Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
  Chernomyrdin, Rabin Sign Bilateral Agreements *[Moscow TV]* 10
  More Details on Chernomyrdin-Rabin Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 10
  Chernomyrdin News Conference on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Yeltsin Middle East Representative on Peace Process *[Moscow TV]* 11
Soskovets Receives Turkish Defense Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Panamanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
  Meets With Kozyrev *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Foreign Ministry on Japanese Premier's Election *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
  Yeltsin Aide Hopes For Good Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
  Official Welcomes New Premier *[Tokyo KYODO]* 14
Talks Held With Japan on Radioactive Waste *[INTERFAX]* 14
Foreign Ministry on DPRK Nuclear Issue, Debts *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Article Views DPRK Nuclear Program 'Scandal' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 25 Apr]* 15

RUSSIAN NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Meets Duma Faction Leaders on Accord *[INTERFAX]* 17
Yeltsin Aide Assesses Opposition to Accord *[IZVESTIYA 23 Apr]* 17
Yeltsin: Accord 'Capable of Saving Russia' *[Russian TV]* 18
Rybkin Sees Opinion in Favor of Civic Accord *[INTERFAX]* 18
Republic Heads Adopt Statement on Accord *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 23 Apr]* 19
Yeltsin Aide: Yabloko Not to Sign Accord *[INTERFAX]* 19

- Gaydar: Civic Accord Agreement Needed *[INTERFAX]* 19
- Yeltsin Aide on Completion of Civic Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
- Federation Council Begins Discussion of Draft *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
- Agrarian Party Sets Out Conditions for Signing Accord *[Moscow Radio]* 20
- Shumeyko, Rybkin Interviewed *[Moscow TV]* 20
- Rutskoy Ready To Unite, Lead Opposition *[Moscow TV]* 21
- 'Working Moscow' Celebrates Lenin Birthday *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
- Radio Announces May Day Work Holidays *[Radio Rossii]* 22
- State Duma Begins Moving Into New Building *[Radio Rossii]* 22
- Federation Council Accepts Kazannik's Resignation *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
- Deputies To Examine Relations With PRC *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
- Advance Copy of Yeltsin's Memoirs Obtained *[Tokyo KYODO]* 23
- Shumeyko Speaks Out Against Early Elections *[INTERFAX]* 23
- Sobchak Accused of Violating Election Decree *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
- Yeltsin Abolishes Blacklist of Deputies *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
- Chernomyrdin Reinstates Monopoly on Alcohol *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
- Yeltsin Supports Live Broadcast of Debates *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
- Government Approves 1994 Social Policy Guidelines *[IZVESTIYA 22 Apr]* 25
- Communist Party Holds Conference 24 Apr 25
  - Adopts Program *[INTERFAX]* 25
  - Moscow TV Reports 25
  - Leader Addresses Party Conference *[INTERFAX]* 26
  - Rybkin, Lapshin Dropped From Committee *[INTERFAX]* 26
  - Fails To Support Civic Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
- Differences on Program May Split Communist Party *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 22 Apr]* 27
- Zhirinovskiy Promises 'Homespun Socialism' *[IZVESTIYA 23 Apr]* 27
- Zhirinovskiy To Present Economic Recovery Plan *[INTERFAX]* 30
- National Salvation Front Urges Early Elections *[INTERFAX]* 30
  - Calls for Yeltsin's Resignation *[INTERFAX]* 31
  - Leader Delivers 'Progress Report' *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
- Thousands Join Kazannik's People's Conscience Party *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
- Left-Wing Russia Party Formed *[Moscow Radio]* 31
- Political Parties Bills Differ on State Role *[SEGODNYA 23 Apr]* 32
- Split Threatens Existence of 'Democratic Russia' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 23 Apr]* 32
- Zorkin Proposes Urgent Measures to Overcome Crisis *[INTERFAX]* 32
- Russia's Choice Appeals for May Day Measures *[Moscow Radio]* 33
- 'White' Movement Urges Expansion of Current National Borders *[SEGODNYA 22 Apr]* 33
- Chernomyrdin Decree on Nizhniy Farm Reform *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 21 Apr]* 33
- Doubts About Nizhniy Reform 'Model' *[IZVESTIYA 21 Apr]* 34
- Status of 'Version No. 1' Investigation *[OBSHCHAYA GAZETA 22-28 Apr]* 35
- Shakhray Calls for Talks With Chechen President *[INTERFAX]* 35

Economic Issues

- Finance Ministry on Foreign Investment Principles *[INTERFAX]* 36
- 1990 State Loans To Be Redeemed by 1 Jun 1995 *[IZVESTIYA 22 Apr]* 36
- Government To Speed Up Agricultural Reform *[INTERFAX]* 36
- Police Increase Efforts To Find Tax Dodgers *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
- Decree on Issuing, Servicing 1994 Treasury Bills *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Apr]* 37
- Shokhin on Prospects for New IMF Credit *[Moscow International]* 37
- Shokhin on Inflation, Belarus Union *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
- Call Issued for Taxation Policy Adjustments *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
- Offshore Oil Facilities To Be Improved *[INTERFAX]* 38
- Gerashchenko Ignores Criticism of Central Bank *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 23 Apr]* 39
- Kokoshin Urges Financial-Industrial Conglomerates *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Apr]* 39
- Pensioners To Receive New Benefits 1 May *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

Military & Nuclear Issues

- Cosmos-2278 Satellite Launched From Baykonur *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
  - 'Experts' on Zenit-2 Reusable Booster *[INTERFAX]* 40

  Orbital Parameters Given *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Grachev, Meshkov on Sevastopol as Fleet Headquarters *[Russian TV]* 40
Program Shows 'Secret' Missile Test Center *[Moscow TV]* 40
Cruise Missiles Launched During Air Force Exercise *[Moscow Radio]* 41
Solution Sought for Submarine Yard's Nuclear Waste *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Yeltsin Condolences on Chernobyl Anniversary *[INTERFAX]* 41
Official Says Chernobyl-Type Accident Impossible *[INTERFAX]* 41
Official Denies Plans for Khabarovsk Plant *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 23 Apr]* 42
Shumeyko Offers Longer Service for Warrant Officers *[ITAR-TASS]* 42

Federal Assembly

Duma Debates Role of Peacekeepers *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 Apr]* 42
Duma Committee Produces Political Party Bill *[INTERFAX]* 43
Foreign Economic Activities Hearings Continue *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 23 Apr]* 44
Deputies' First 100 Days Assessed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Apr]* 44
State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin Profiled *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 23 Apr]* 46

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Holds Discussions With Republic Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Troops Move Into N. Ossetia-Ingushetia Corridor *[Radio Rossii]* 47
Ingushetia's Aushev Curtails Parliament's Powers *[SEGODNYA 23 Apr]* 47
Khamchiyev: Ossetians 'Aiming for Mass Bloodshed' *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Chechen President on Need for Defense Shield *[INTERFAX]* 48
Chechen Figures Comment on Relations With Moscow *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 22 Apr]* 48
Electricity Off Throughout Chechen Republic *[INTERFAX]* 49
Electricity Supply to Chechnya Normal *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Moscow Signs Cooperation Treaty with Dagestan *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Apr]* 49
Kuzbass Authorities Sign Treaty on Accord *[IZVESTIYA 22 Apr]* 49
General Says Pacific Border District Combat-Ready *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Parliamentary Elections Unnecessary in Cherkessk *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
By-Election to Altay Local Legislature Valid *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Plans To Build Strategic Port on Gulf of Finland *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Chuvashia President Announces Reform Program *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Tatarstan Parliament Voids Yeltsin Land Edict *[SEGODNYA 23 Apr]* 51
Modernization of Petersburg Airport Completed *[IZVESTIYA 22 Apr]* 51

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk Phone-In 23 April *[Kiev International]* 52
Country Blames Grachev for Talks Disruption *[SEGODNYA 23 Apr]* 60
Defense Ministry Ready To Resume Talks *[Kiev Radio]* 60
Rukh Leader Comments on Russian Position *[INTERFAX]* 60
Continuation of Reportage on Black Sea Fleet Talks 61
  Zlenko Warns Talks Could Stall *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
  Agreement Reached 'in Principle' *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
  No Agreement Reached on Bases *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
  Foreign Ministry Spokesman on 'Difficulties' *[INTERFAX]* 61
  Kravchuk on Ships in Sevastopol *[INTERFAX]* 62
  Defense Ministry Releases Statement *[Kiev Radio]* 62
  Radetskyy Talks Break Off *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
  TASS Carries Defense Ministry Statement 62
  Kravchuk Refutes Grachev's Statement *[Kiev International]* 63
  Kravchuk Calls for Top Level Decision *[INTERFAX 24 Apr]* 63
  Parties Outline Ways To Solve Problems *[INTERFAX]* 64
  Radetskyy 'Cannot Evaluate' Grachev Departure *[INTERFAX]* 64
  Kravchuk Comments on Stance *[Kiev TV]* 64
  Tarasyuk Urges 'Third Party' Participation *[INTERFAX]* 65

Kravchuk Rejects Third Party *[INTERFAX]* ... 66

National Affairs

Kravchuk Seeks to Postpone Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 66
Three Parties Want Elections Postponed *[Kiev TV]* ... 66
Republican Party Wants Elections Postponed *[Kiev International]* ... 66
Kravchuk Warns Crimea's Decrees May Be Abrogated *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 67
Kravchuk: Crimea's Call for Separation 'Ill-Considered' *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 67
EU Satisfied With Elections, Voices Concern Over Crimea *[Kiev Radio]* ... 67
Crimea's Pro-Ukraine Parties Demonstrate Against Secession *[UNIAR]* ... 67
Outgoing Parliament Adopts Farewell Address *[Kiev International]* ... 68
Kravchuk Cited on Composition of New Parliament *[INTERFAX]* ... 69
Plyushch Says All Republics Should Share Fleet *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 69
Lanovyy Outlines Stance on Current Issues *[UNIAR]* ... 69
Justice Minister 'Shocked' by Meshkov's Decisions *[KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 21 Apr]* ... 69
Edict Introduces Privatization Certificates *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 69
Chernobyl AES Official Underlines Safety Level *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 70

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Minsk Postpones Joining Partnership for Peace *[Moscow Radio]* ... 71
Friendship, Cooperation Agreement Signed With Romania *[Minsk Radio]* ... 71
11 Groups Registered in Presidential Elections *[INTERFAX]* ... 71
Defense Minister Signs Statute on Military Service *[Minsk Radio]* ... 71
Statistics on Social Protection of Servicemen *[RESPUBLIKA 19 Apr]* ... 71
State Oil Concern Chairman, Vice President Appointed *[Minsk Radio]* ... 72
National Bank Chairman of Currency Unification Treaty *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 22 Apr]* ... 72
Official Views Results of Chernobyl Accident *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 19 Apr]* ... 72
Conference Opens on Continuing Aftermath of Chernobyl *[IZVESTIYA 20 Apr]* ... 74
Government Said Backing Down on Chernobyl Pledges *[Minsk Radio]* ... 74

Moldova

Deputies Assail 'Interference' of Romanian Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 74

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Sudabayev, PRC Envoy Discuss Li Peng Visit *[Almaty Radio]* ... 75
Travel Restricted in Areas Bordering PRC *[Almaty Radio]* ... 75

Kyrgyzstan

Li Peng Arrives in Bishkek, Met by Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 75
Akayev, Li Peng 'Deeply Satisfied' With Ties *[Moscow TV]* ... 75
    Make Progress on Disputed Territories *[INTERFAX]* ... 75
China To Grant Credit, Humanitarian Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 76
Cooperation With Chinese Businessmen To Increase *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 76
Open Letter to Akayev From Russian Officers Cited *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Apr]* ... 76
'Full Text' of Tajik Draft Constitution *[Dushanbe Radio]* ... 77
Government 'Satisfied' With Talks With Opposition *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 86
Premier Urges Currency Unification With Russia *[OBSHCHAYA GAZETA 22-28 Apr]* ... 86
Dushanbe Said Dependent on Russian Aid *[INTERFAX]* ... 86

Turkmenistan

PRC, Japan To Help Turkmenistan Export Gas *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 87

Tajikistan

Niyazov Begins Second Round of Talks With Li Peng *[ITAR-TASS]* 87
Accords Signed at End of Tajik, PRC Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 87
Niyazov, Li Peng Agree to Chinese Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* 88

Uzbekistan

French President Expected in Tashkent 25 Apr *[ITAR-TASS 25 Apr]* 88
Deputy Prime Minister Outlines Reform Package *[Berlin DDP/ADN]* 88

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Government Favors Universal CIS Currency *[ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY]* 89
Emigration Becoming 'National Disaster' *[IZVESTIYA 22 Apr]* 89

Azerbaijan

Assembly Rejects Russian Plan for Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 90
Parliament Favors Amending Russian Draft *[Baku TV]* 90
Aliyev Calls Russia's Position on Unclear *[ITAR-TASS]* 90
Parliament Considers Russian Settlement Plan *[TURAN]* 91
Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin on Baku Visit 91
Meets With Aliyev *[Baku Radio]* 91
Cetin, Hasanov Hold Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 91
Cetin Expresses Support for Azerbaijan *[ANATOLIA]* 91
Cetin Urges Sanctions on Armenia *[ITAR-TASS]* 92
Update on Situation at Front *[TURAN]* 92
Fierce Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Zone *[INTERFAX]* 92
Karabakh Forces Shoot Down Azeri Bomber *[INTERFAX]* 93
Conflicting Reports on Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh *[Radio Rossii]* 93
Karabakh Army Reports Successful Counteroffensive *[INTERFAX]* 93
Aliyev Postpones Trip Due to War Escalation *[TURAN]* 93
Baburin Leads Russian State Duma Delegation to Baku *[TURAN]* 94
Baburin Charges Armenia 'Aggressor' *[INTERFAX]* 94
Alliance of National-Democratic Parties Created *[TURAN]* 94

Georgia

Mediator Says Georgia, Abkhazia Moving Apart *[ITAR-TASS]* 94
Shevardnadze Envoy Hopeful Over Abkhaz Talks *[Tbilisi Radio]* 95
UN Delay in Sending Troops to Abkhazia Criticized *[Russian TV]* 95
Abkhazian Deputy Kakubava Abducted *[IBERIA 23 Apr]* 95
Crackdown on Terrorism, Corruption Announced *[INTERFAX]* 96
Shevardnadze, Local Administration Heads Meet *[Tbilisi Radio]* 96
Russia Cancels Duties on Georgian Goods *[Tbilisi Radio]* 96
Terrorist Organization Claims Killings *[IBERIA 23 Apr]* 96

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Ukrainian, Estonian Presidents Discuss Weapons *[Tallinn Radio]* 97
Defense Minister Concludes Visit to Ukraine *[BNS]* 97
Prime Minister Confers With UN Secretary General *[BNS]* 97
Legislative Foreign Affairs Commissions Meet *[ETA]* 97
Friendship, Cooperation Pact With Hungary Ratified *[BNS]* 98
Dismantling of Paldiski Reactors Slows Down *[BNS]* 98
New Patriotic Organization 'Parem Eesti' Formed *[ETA]* 99

Latvia

U.S. Envoy Presents Gore Letter to Prime Minister *[BNS]* 99
Russian Negotiator Says Pact Must Be Signed *[BNS]* 99
GATT Membership Conditions Discussed *[LETA]* 99
Prime Minister Talks With EU Team *[LETA]* 100
Government To Abolish Salaspils Reactor *[Riga Radio]* 100
Changes to Law on Foreigners Adopted *[DIENA 15 Apr]* 100

Lithuania

President Sends Condolences on Nixon Death *[Vilnius Radio]* 100
President Speaks at International Conference *[BNS]* 101
Legal Assistance Pact Concluded With Kazakhstan *[BNS]* 101
NATO Commander on Aid to Baltics *[Vilnius Radio]* 101
Lithuanian President on Treaty, Russia *[RZECZPOSPOLITA 21 Apr]* 101

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Apr

LD2304065094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0635 GMT 23 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 23 (ITAR-TASS)—The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper quotes the Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov who told a Kremlin briefing on Friday that Boris Yeltsin hopes for the success of the treaty on public accord which is to be signed on April 28.

The newspaper prints the full text of a statement by the leaders of the member republics of the Russian Federation, which was adopted on April 21 after a meeting with the Russian president. The statement expresses support for the agreement.

At the same time, the newspaper singles out a report that the Russian parliament lower house is not ready to sign the document, since its new version needs examination.

It is reported that parliamentary groups intend to discuss it at party conferences, and political councils of parties in the remaining days before April 28 "to hammer out a common position".

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper carries, in this connection, an article by Valeriy Zorkin, the former chairman of the Russian constitutional court, who claims that "national accord cannot be 'introduced' by any decree".

According to Zorkin, "real compromise means strict implementation of clearly outlined top priority measures supported by all or the majority of people, without which it will be impossible to check the country's sliding to a dreadful disaster".

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper concentrates on the talks between the Russian and Ukrainian military delegations in Sevastopol.

The commentary on this topic says that the agreement signed in Moscow on a gradual settlement of Black Sea Fleet problems "was in actual fact a compromise and a concession of the Russian side for the earliest settlement of contradictions between the neighbouring countries".

However, the Ukrainian military delegation at the Sevastopol talks "sees weak positions of the partners in the dialogue behind the concession and puts forth absurd demands having nothing to do with the presidents' understanding".

The military leaders have not cleared up the question which was unequivocally settled by the presidents: "to divide the Black Sea Fleet bases", the newspaper continues. The way out of the Black Sea deadlock "has only gleamed in the distance but has not fully appeared for the negotiating sides".

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper features an open letter to Boris Yeltsin adopted by a meeting of the Union of Russian North-Western Cities held in the city of Kirov.

It expresses concern that administration heads of such big Russian cities as Omsk, Saratov, Vladivostok and Nizhny Novgorod were released from their posts under the pressure of regional governors over the past few months.

The newspaper claims that the posts were left by honest people vitally interested in the prosperity of their cities. The message contains a demand to carry out inspections in connection with complaints of ousted administration heads and to publish their results.

The TRUD newspaper carries an interview with director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Sergey Stepashin on corruption in executive bodies. Confirming the existence of corruption, including in the top echelon, he stressed: "We know about this and actively work in this direction", but there is no point in raising ballyhoo about this.

"We declare an all-out war on corruption", the struggle against which, as general struggle against crime, "becomes an important task of ensuring national security", Stepashin stressed.

The Moscow press gives an extensive coverage to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin said in an interview with ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI that Serbs' continued attacks in the area of Gorazde lead to their disaster.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper writes the following: Since Russia abides by the opinion that "one should not be in a hurry to spread the zone of air strikes in Bosnia", it turns out that Russia, the United States, the EU and the U.N. "have no common approach to a solution of the crisis".

The newspaper claims that the absence of a common diplomatic plan for a settlement will lead to a sitation when "a decision will be taken, most probably, without taking into consideration Russia's opinion".

According to the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper, Moscow and Washington do not intend to yield the palm to each other in initiatives. The Kremlin insists on calling a summit on former Yugoslavia, and the White House does not object against this, suggesting only that it should be prepared well.

In the meantime, the newspaper states, U.S. President Bill Clinton put forth his own plan providing for "possible further air strikes on Serbs".

The PRAVDA newspaper runs information on demonstrations and rallies in Moscow by opposition forces on the occasion of Vladimir Lenin's birthday. The newspaper describes in detail exhibits of an exposition named "Attempt on Memory" which opened at the Pavilion "Lenin's Funeral Train" on Friday.

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin 'Grieving' Over Nixon's Death

LD2304192794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Here is what Russian President Boris Yeltsin said about the death of former U.S. President Richard Nixon to American television today:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The main thing is that I realize that he is probably one of the first politicians, one of the first major world politicians who understood Russia, who understood what it wants, what it is fighting for, who understood that Russia wants rebirth, the return of what was lost over those seven decades. I am simply grieving over Richard Nixon's death. He had my genuine, sincere, heartfelt respect, and I regarded him as one of the strongest, one of the strongest politicians in the United States of America. I sympathize with, and would like to offer my condolences to, the family of this very much respected man and great politician. [end recording]

Further Yeltsin Tribute to Nixon

LD2304115794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has expressed his deep grief at the demise of former U.S. President Richard Nixon. A notice issued by the Russian president's press service indicates that he has conveyed profound condolences to the family of the deceased and to the American people as a whole.

The Russian president stressed that he "sincerely and wholeheartedly respected" Nixon—a major world politician who always had a great liking for Russia. Nixon, the Russian leader added, was one of the first major political figures to support the establishment of the new, democratic Russia.

Duma Protests Joint U.S. Military Exercises

LD2204142994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—The State Duma today requested that Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin reconsider the expediency of holding joint Russian-American command and staff exercises in July 1994 on the Totskoye training ground in Orenburg Oblast, "given the social and political situation in the country and the crucial stage we are at in the process of working out an all-Russian concept of civil accord." This address was made in a resolution by the lower house of the Federal Assembly.

The same document recommends that the foreign and defense ministries of the Russian Federation reconsider the expediency of having talks on joint maneuvers, with Russia's participation, on the territory of one of the NATO countries.

Grachev: Partnership Program 'Overpublicized'

LD2504114794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1105 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—"In the first place, partnership means not deceiving one another and not letting one another down, taking account of partners' interests and not only one's own, not trying to place oneself above others, and all interested parties participating in a process of true partnership on an equal basis. And those are the principles of the Partnership for Peace program," Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said at a news conference today.

The Russian defense minister believes that NATO's Partnership for Peace program has been over-publicized, although even the masters of the program have not yet put forward its specific principles and measures. Meanwhile, hundreds of scientific works have already been written on this topic, thousands of symposiums held, and millions spent on various visits, Pavel Grachev noted.

Kozyrev on 'More Substantial' Partnership Plan

LD2204132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1205 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—Russia is working on a package of proposals that are to form the basis of its cooperation with NATO, Andrey Kozyrev told journalists today after his meeting with Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen.

Replying to a question about the prospects for Russia's acceding to the "Partnership for Peace" program, the Russian foreign minister said: "We are working on a more substantial package of proposals than just what NATO is suggesting to us."

A. Kozyrev stressed that Moscow favors "more substantial, more substantive relations with NATO which would really make the partnership a partnership."

Grachev Urges End to Threat of Bosnia Air Strikes

LD2504125394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev called to drop the threat of NATO air strikes on Bosnia, especially of the massive ones which can make "the conflict uncontrollable and result in its spreading outside Bosnia-Herzegovina".

"In the military sphere NATO air strikes did not bring any results and will not bring them at present", he told a press conference on Monday.

The minister believes the major way to settle the conflict is to hold in the near future a meeting of the leaders of Russia, the United States, EU countries and the UN. The summit, according to Grachev, can be held in any European state and should involve also the political leadership of the whole of the former Yugoslavia.

Grachev urged to strengthen the peace-keeping forces in Gorazde and to avert bloodshed in the city itself. He informed that a 19-men strong Russian platoon will be transferred to Gorazde. The minister said it is also necessary to promote normal humanitarian provision for the population there.

Grachev is categorically against the withdrawal of Russian peace-keepers from Bosnia. "This would be an untimely and inappropriate decision fraught with a further political isolation of Russia in the world community. It is possible to pull out Russian forces from the region only after the settlement is reached by political means", he said.

The Russian minister believes it is not only Serbs who are to blame for the current crisis in Bosnia. Both conflicting sides are to blame, according to him.

Platoon To Join Peacekeepers in Gorazde

LD2504122194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—A Russian platoon will be sent to reinforce UN peace-keepers in the Muslim enclave of Gorazde in Bosnia, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev announced at a press conference on Monday.

Bosnian Serb Leaders Meet State Duma Delegation

LD2404083694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0133 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Apr—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Momcilo Krajisnik, head of the Serb Republic parliament, received in Pale today an official Russian parliamentary delegation, headed by Nikolay Bezborodov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Defense and Security Committee.

During the course of the conversation, the leaders of the Serb Republic expressed gratitude to the Russian parliamentarians for their arrival at the critical moment of the declaration of the NATO ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs.

At a time when an agreement is being concluded with the representatives of the United Nations on localizing the pocket of conflict in Gorazde, they are again presenting us with an ultimatum, threatening the use of force and thus trying to impose on us decisions which are alien to us, M. Krajisnik, the parliamentary chairman, said during the conversation.

At the same time, he expressed the hope that the Russian parliamentarians would take an objective view of the situation and would make the correct conclusions.

The head of the Russian delegation said that the deputies, who represent the majority of the factions in the Duma, in many ways agree with the Serbian side's view of what is happening and the ways of solving urgent problems. The speediest establishment of peace is the chief element toards solving the Bosnian crisis, N. Bezborodov said. He also stressed the importance of lifting the sanctions, saying that once the delegation had returned to Moscow with its report, the Duma will continue its debate on the question of sanctions.

Yeltsin Writes to Izetbegovic on Bosnia Situation

LD2404184994 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a letter to Alija Izetbegovic, president of the presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Yeltsin writes:

It is with great concern and disquiet that we have followed the developments surrounding Gorazde and Bosnia-Herzegovina as a whole. We strongly condemn any activity which results in the killing of the civilian population, Yeltsin writes in his letter to Izetbegovic. Russia has been taking all possible steps to end the bloodshed as soon as possible, to restrain the deadly currents of the war, and to restore a situation that would help in finding a political solution. To this end I sent the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, to Belgrade. The activity of our special envoy Vitaliy Churkin in Sarajevo and in Pale was aimed at resolving the crisis. We insist on the Bosnian Serbs complying fully with the UN conditions regarding Gorazde, President Yeltsin says in his letter to Alija Izetbegovic.

Kozyrev on Peaceful Settlement in Bosnia

LD2304191194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] It seems to be the case that events in and around Bosnia regularly reach a peak at the weekend. Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, observer for our program and for the INTERFAX agency, who discussed matters earlier with Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, now talks about where things have got to this time. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Kozyrev] There will be no air strikes whatsoever as long as the basic reasonable demands for safeguarding security in the zones long declared by the United Nations—six towns in all—are met. Neither the Bosnian Serbs nor the Serbs of Yugoslavia have raised objections to this.

[Voskoboynikov] There is frequent talk of lack of agreement among Russia, the USA, and the European Union [EU] and at the United Nations on how a settlement of the Bosnian crisis is to be reached. Can it now be said that, following yesterday's NATO decision, the positions of all parties regarding the way to an agreement have somehow suddenly come closer?

[Kozyrev] No, I do not believe it should be put like that. The fact is that it has become quite clear of late; there are two directions for action. The first is the military one—how to stop the Serb fighters and what will most effectively stop them, and what is the limit beyond which they may not be allowed to go. But there is a second direction too—the working-out of a joint position by Russia, the EU, the United Nations, and the USA. In other words, you see, it has to be clear that the military option will lead to military disaster; whereas the peaceful option which also exists, is no less clear and is just as precisely coordinated by the international community. The situation to date has been that we and the EU have taken approaches to this matter that have been very close, in fact almost identical. The USA, on the other hand, has up to now been, as it were, out on its own. What we have managed to do during this time is get the USA, too, to declare that it is joining in the practical work. [end recording]

[Voskoboynikov] It would appear that Kozyrev is to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Geneva on 26 April, but before that Kozyrev's deputy, Vitaliy Churkin, is to have talks in London with his British opposite number and the U.S. special representative [Charles] Redman. On the following day, also in London, multilateral international consultations on Bosnia are to be held.

Federation Council Endorses Yugoslavia Policy

LD2204180094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Federation Council entirely shares the position of the Russian Foreign Ministry regarding the situation in the former Yugoslavia, Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Parliament's Upper Chamber Vladimir Podoprigora declared in an interview with Interfax on Friday. He underlined that during the visit of the Russian parliamentary delegation to Strasbourg he said at the sitting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council that one should take into consideration Russia's opportunity to influence the situation in Yugoslavia to a greater extent. "One should not resort to arms until all other opportunities are used. Now the Russian Foreign Ministry is sticking to this position and we entirely share it," said Podoprigora.

He pointed out that in contrast to the State Duma there are no contradictions on this issue within the Federation Council and said that the lower chamber had sent its own delegation to Yugoslavia in order to clarify its position.

However, as Podoprigora said, "deputies should interfere in practical policy only in extreme cases, their aim is to determine foreign political strategy and decide on how to coordinate foreign policy with the Constitution and current legislation."

Podoprigora said that according to the Constitution the president determines foreign policy and the parliament prepares decrees. That's why the Federation council does not intend to consider issues on Russian policy in Yugoslavia at its sittings, said Podoprigora.

Security Council Official Views Bosnian Solution

LD2304140094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0639 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr—Reserves for extinguishing the Bosnian conflict by peaceful means have not yet been exhausted and Boris Yeltsin's initiative is more likely than bombing and shelling to lead to an end to the war. This opinion was expressed by Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Security Council, in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He reported that the Bosnian question was discussed at a meeting of the Security Council which had heard a report from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev as well as detailed information about the Russian president's initiative.

Oleg Lobov considers that a top-level meeting of the leaders of the world's leading countries and UN and CSCE representatives, with the participation of the warring sides, could yield the most positive results.

The Security Council secretary said that at the present time drafting work is being actively carried out on the concept of economic security. It is planned to examine the concept at a meeting of the council in November. Alongside military and social security, economic security is one of the most important areas of the council's activities.

The aim of the economic security program, Oleg Lobov said, is to stabilize the situation in the economy and to seek ways out of the crisis. Meanwhile, even before the program is adopted, a number of questions are being urgently tackled. These are questions connected with privatization, providing the Russian populace with medicines, the ecological problem, and land fertility. In the opinion of the Security Council secretary these could be described as global problems.

Churkin Interviewed on Bosnia Situation

LD2404192794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy to Bosnia-Herzegovina and deputy foreign minister by correspondent Yevgeniy Kiselev; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kiselev] Vitaliy Ivanovich, because of the events in Yugoslavia you are now as famous as General Sir Michael Rose, the commander of UN peacekeeping forces. They say you were inside Gorazde at the very moment when the Serbian tanks burst into the town and it was only your personal intervention that stopped the onslaught. What happened in reality?

[Churkin] This thing about my personal intervention and the tanks breaking in is an obvious exaggeration. In reality, this is what happened: While Akashi, the UN secretary general's representative in former Yugoslavia and myself, were making desperate final efforts to come to an agreement with the Serbs that they should withdraw—at least slightly—their heavy armaments and troops from Gorazde, Rose sent us a panicky report that even after all undertakings to cease-fire, not only was the fire continuing, albeit not very intensely, but also that three tanks were approaching the town, which could start the shelling at any moment. Rose said he was unable to tolerate this any longer and if the tanks did not make a U-turn there and then he would be requesting air strikes. At that point I did indeed intervene, because it was Akashi who was to give the go-ahead for this action. I told him this was breaching the resolutions of the UN Security Council because the tanks were not, in fact, firing.

[Kiselev] That is you intervened, in fact, not in order to stop the onslaught, or the advance of these three tanks, but with the view to preventing the NATO strikes.

[Churkin] Yes, for prevention. I told him however—and in this I did take rather a lot upon myself—that if in the future just one tank fires even once, I am giving him the go-ahead, if he needs an official go-ahead from a Russian representative—to ask for air support, so that these tanks are dealt with accordingly.

Because this game—broken promises, undertakings to cease-fire, while continuing to shell the town, the advancement of tanks—this game continued for a few days and could not be tolerated any longer.

[Kiselev] Was it the game led by the Serbian leaders?

[Churkin] It was the game conducted, as I understand, by some people, leaders, from among the Bosnian Serbs, mainly the military.

[Kiselev] While you have been working in Yugoslavia—I am saying "working in Yugoslavia" because I think you are spending more time there in Yugoslavia than here in Moscow, you have certainly built personal relationships with many Serbian leaders, such relationships that give one the right to be hurt or puzzled, or to expect—on the other hand—personal support. How would you describe the Serbian leaders as personalities?

[Churkin] I would not like to talk about personalities right now. I would only say that they are strong people. There are also strong, major politicians in Belgrade. In fact, I have a personal relationship with many of them, but I have not been using them to replace the state policy by some kind of personal contacts, this would have been absurd. However, I have used them to speak with utmost frankness about the problems as they were emerging. The conversations, especially the very recent ones, probably went beyond the bounds of any concept of political and diplomatic contacts. I am actually quite sure they did. Both in the gravity of what was being said and, excuse me, even in the tone of it. This was being done deliberately—because I felt that they were approaching a catastrophe, and that as a professional, I should be able to tell myself later: I have done all I could have done, said all I could have said, used all opportunities to bring it home to them that they were making a colossal mistake and that this absolutely must not be done, and that events must be made to take a different course.

[Kiselev] That statement, very abrupt, I would say unexpectedly abrupt for a tried and tested professional diplomat, that you made in the airport on returning to Moscow—what was it, an echo of those emotions, some kind of overspill, or do you not regret your words?

[Churkin] I do not regret it at all. Furthermore, now I am even more convinced that it was correct, the statement was well considered. I will tell you why it was correct. In general, during my work in Yugoslavia, this is the third time I have resorted to this device, but perhaps in this case it was the most open, naked, and extreme in form.

With this statement I wanted to achieve three things. First, I wanted to tell the Serbs with complete clarity the threat they are facing. Second, I wanted to somehow shake up public opinion in Russia, so that people would stop for a moment and realize that something wrong is happening there, that very threatening events could really be approaching. Third, I wanted it to be clear to everyone in the world that Russia dissociates itself from the nightmares and horrors being created by the Bosnian Serbs in Gorazde.

[Kiselev] Alright. Your point of view—or probably it is less your point of view than the point of view of the Russian Foreign Ministry, if I understand correctly—how much weight does it carry when Russia's stance as a whole is being determined? After all, foreign policy is not determined by the Foreign Ministry alone: There is also the military, the military intelligence service and the foreign intelligence service, which also report to the president, and the president formulates the stance after summarizing this information.

[Churkin] Of course. Of course. At least [words indistinct] Yugoslavian but also European, in two years working as deputy minister I do not recall any case in which the president adopted a decision that differed sharply from the view of the Foreign Ministry. That is of course, there are sometimes certain nuances and the president himself can introduce a certain nuance into a draft decision presented to him, independently of the departments. But I cannot remember any cases in which there has been a complete reversal.

[Kiselev] Tell me, please, is there now in the Russian approach to appraising the Serb side's position, a return to the situation of 1992 when the Serbs used to be divided into good and bad? You remember, that at the time there was a policy of supporting not Milosevic but Panic.

[Churkin] Well, I have always said and keep repeating that extremists from all the three sides are the main difficulty and danger in the whole Bosnian conflict—I have told this to the Serbs, too—extremists among the Serbs, among the Muslims and among the Croats. It happens now that at this moment, precisely when peace was within reach, or maybe precisely because there was such a moment, that genie was let out of the bottle. What can we do now? I believe that we should try to single out commonsense in the Serb side proceeding simply from some normal ideas of Serbia's interests. In conversations with Milosevic, I have asked him more than once: Does Serbia really need Gorazde? What is a town with 60,000 people from the point of view of the entire Serb people? I must say that he agreed with me. Serbia needs peace, Serbia does not take part in the war, not directly, at least. The people are suffering from the sanctions. So, Serbia should be interested in lifting the sanctions and therefore in putting pressure on the extremists among the Bosnian Serbs in order to stop the conflict. But for the time being, as I see it, I will say the following: For the time being I see no signs of Belgrade's pressure on Bosnian Serb extremists yielding palpable results. This is a tragedy.

[Kiselev] That is, you are saying that they are becoming increasingly unmanageable?

[Churkin] Perhaps, yes. I see a solution here in Serbia finding an inner strength to separate itself from these actions by the militarists among the Bosnian Serbs.

[Kiselev] To what degree do your words apply to Karadzic, the main leader of the Bosnian Serbs?

[Churkin] I would not like to mention names now. I have clear ideas about everyone but I would not like to speak about this now.

[Kiselev] Now, perhaps the last question—about you personally, Vitaliy Ivanovich: Right now in those circles of people keeping a close watch on Russia's diplomatic efforts in the former Yugoslavia there are rumors that you may fall victim to an intrigue directed against you within the state machinery. Do you think this is true?

[Churkin, laughing] I am probably circulating these rumors myself, because...no, I do not have this impression at all. I have not got wind of any intrigues within the state machinery whatsoever. But, I think I will soon have to find the right moment to draw a line under all my stormy activities connected with Yugoslavia and hand over to another, perhaps more worthy and less emotional person. Two years is quite enough.

[Kiselev] Doesn't it mean that you have simply given up?

[Churkin] No! No, I have not given up. Just that, we have this rotation system, one of the sacred traditions of diplomatic service, and not just of ours, it is international. But while there is no result, no realistic result, I think I should keep working. So long as no other decisions are taken in connection with other circumstances.

[Kiselev] Thank you, Vitaliy Ivanovich.

Date for Yeltsin Trip to Ukraine Undecided

LD2504104494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1017 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—A visit to Ukraine by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, during which he is expected to sign a large-scale treaty between the two states, is being mooted, Yuriy Dubinin, special envoy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said today at a news conference at the Russian Defense Ministry.

Yuriy Dubinin explained to the ITAR-TASS correspondent that agreement on this had been reached during Boris Yeltsin's meeting with Leonid Kravchuk in Moscow on 15 April. The exact date of the visit has not yet been finalized, the diplomat noted.

Yeltsin Aide on 'Serious Danger' Posed by Ukraine

LD2304114994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr—"Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been following the Black Sea Fleet situation with great attention," a statement received by ITAR-TASS from Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, says. "He is concerned about the Ukrainian side's open demonstration of its unwillingness to adhere strictly to the understanding on the separate basing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy, which was contained in the Moscow agreement.

"The Ukrainian side is making totally inappropriate hints about the possibility of resolving the contentious issue with the help of a third power. Needless to say, the Russian side will not tolerate any outside interference in the question of the Black Sea Fleet. One has the impression that the Ukrainian side does not realize what the realities are and is losing control over the situation. In these circumstances it is becoming less and less consistent and more unpredictable both in its actions and in its statements. This constitutes a serious danger. At the same time it is obvious that the Black Sea Fleet cannot be used as a hostage of Ukraine's internal political disagreements.

"In connection with circumstances which have taken shape Boris Yeltsin is holding intensive political consultations with competent departments."

Russia Insists on Basing Fleet at Sevastopol

LD2204212294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1933 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 22 Apr—The three-day talks in Sevastopol between the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers on a stage-by-stage settlement of the problems of the Black Sea Fleet ended effectively in failure, given that no documents were signed as a result. The Russian delegation returned to Moscow without holding the concluding meeting with the Ukrainian delegation. [passage omitted]

"We cannot agree to the staffs of the fleets of two states being based in the same town," Grachev emphasized at a news conference before flying for Moscow.

The Russian defense minister believes that the Ukrainian side's position on the basing problem diverges from the accords that have been previously reached and with Leonid Kravchuk's statements.

"Sevastopol should be the main base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. We cannot and do not have the right to undermine its combat readiness as an integral part of the Russian Federation Armed Forces," Grachev declared.

Although no specific documents were signed on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet, the sides reached fundamental accord on the parameters of dividing it up. The delegations agreed that the force composition of the Black Sea fleet numbers 833 combatant ships and vessels. According to preliminary calculations, 669 craft should go to Russia and 164 to Ukraine. Given the accords reached previously on a 50-50 division of the Black Sea fleet, Russia should pay Ukraine compensation for 252 ships. At the same time, Grachev pointed out, over the recent period Ukraine has unilaterally privatized 126 Black Sea Fleet ships and vessels that should have been taken into account when the fleet was divided up.

Grachev also said that, apart from Sevastopol, the Russian Federation side intends to base its subdivisions in Balaklava, Feodosiya, Kerch, and Donuzlav. Inter alia, it is planned to locate about 70 percent of Russia's part of the fleet in Sevastopol, 10 percent in Donuzlav, 5 percent in Balaklava, and 7 percent each in Feodosiya and Kerch. When the talks started, the Ukrainian delegation was insisting that Russia could have only one base for its fleet, in Donuzlav.

Unless the issue of bases for Russia's Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's Navy is settled, it is inexpedient to start the process of dividing up the ships of the fleet, since without a land-based infrastructure it cannot exist, Grachev said in conclusion.

Grachev Charges Ukraine Privatizing Navy Facilities

LD2204201194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1923 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—Over the last few years Ukraine has unilaterally "privatized" buildings, structures, engineering equipment, property, and ammunition belonging to the Black Sea Fleet worth some 94 billion rubles at today's prices. This was stated today by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at a news conference in Sevastopol when the Russian-Ukrainian talks on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet ended.

According to the Russian minister, besides 126 ships and vessels of the Black Sea Fleet, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has seized 38 moorings with a total length of 3,457 meters, which is 10 percent of the entire mooring front of the Black Sea Fleet.

Besides this, Ukraine's military department has seized 2,245 buildings and structures belonging to the Black Sea Fleet. All this, stated Pavel Grachev, should be taken into account during the forthcoming dividing up of not only the vessels, but also the infrastructure of the Black Sea Fleet.

Grachev Dissatisfied With Black Sea Fleet Talks

LD2204160194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1457 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sevastopol, 22 Apr—The Russian military delegation has refused to sign any agreements based on the results of the talks in Sevastopol on a stage by stage settlement of the Black Sea Fleet issue. A member of the delegation told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that this is due to an unconstructive stance adopted by the Ukrainian side on questions relating to the basing of the fleets. In his words, Russia said it will not agree to the Russian Black Sea Fleet being deployed in Crimea merely on a temporary basis, or to the proposal that the headquarters of both the Russian Black Sea Fleet and of the Ukrainian naval forces being located in Sevastopol.

It is impossible that the headquarters of the fleets belonging to two states should be based in one and the same town, Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, said at a news conference in Sevastopol after the two sides had completed their dialogue. He said he is dissatisfied with the results of the talks, where the participants came to an agreement only with regard to the division of the Fleet.

However, according to Pavel Grachev, the process of dividing it up cannot start without the question of basing being settled. The Russian minister considers that Sevastopol should be Russia's principal base, where no less than 70 percent of its fleet should be deployed. In addition to Sevastopol, the Black Sea Fleet is to be located in Balaklava, Feodosia, Kerch, and Donuzlava. Pavel Grachev rejected the proposals of the Ukrainian side on the Russian and Ukrainian fleets sharing the same bases in Sevastopol.

Pavel Grachev flew to Moscow this afternoon without meeting Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, the defense minster of Ukraine.

Grachev on 'Unconstructive' Ukrainian Standpoint

LD2504142894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At a news conference on the results of his talks on a gradual settlement of the Black Sea Fleet's problems today, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev described the standpoint of the Ukrainian military delegation as unconstructive. It follows from his explanation, which cited naval rules, that coastal buildings and facilities belonging to the fleet are part of the fleet and therefore are a subject of the talks. The Ukrainian side, on the other hand, insisted that all this property automatically belongs to Ukraine because it is situated on its territory.

Touching on certain other demands by the Ukrainian delegation, Grachev said they were unacceptable and even discriminatory with regard to Russia. Specifically, in the view of the Russian defense minister, the demand that the whole Russian Black Sea Fleet should be concentrated at one base in Donuzlav is unacceptable. First, this would contradict the notions of military security. Second, it is quite impossible to site even part of the fleet's officer corps at Donuzlav. Yuriy Dubinin, a representative of the Russian president, who took part in the talks, praised the

Russian military delegation for the diplomatic skill shown and regretted that in spite of this the talks produced only a negative result.

Latest Attempt To Divide Black Sea Fleet Reported

PM2204104594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by UNIAN correspondent Mariya Starozhitskaya, specially for IZVESTIYA: "Trying To Divide Black Sea Fleet for a Fifth Time"]

[Text] Kiev—The 10 days set aside by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine for agreeing the parameters of the division of the Black Sea Fleet are not over yet, but the first result has already been achieved. [Ukrainian] President Leonid Kravchuk has given an assurance that the Ukrainian sailors' pay will be no less than that of the Russians (although admittedly it will be no higher) and that the question of coordinating the term of fixed service must also be resolved: At the moment people serve for two years in the Ukrainian Navy, 18 months in the Russian Navy. These innovations should help to achieve an amicable division of Black Sea Fleet personnel.

Replying to IZVESTIYA's question before flying out to the Crimea 21 April, [Ukrainian] Defense Minister V. Radetskyy gave an assurance that officers and warrant officers will choose their place of service solely according to preference: "There are no problems at all regarding sailors, soldiers, and petty officers—ships and shore subunits are staffed equally by Ukrainians and Russians and among the officers half will be of Ukrainian origin. But the human factor must also be taken into account, these people have families, apartments, and personal ties. But the principle, I repeat, is the same: Everyone will serve where they choose."

Radetskyy is inclined toward the rapid and constructive solution of the problem. In his opinion, this is also true of [Russian Defense Minister] Grachev—recently the ministers have been in regular telephone contact with one another. The presidents' orders are identical—matters must be sorted out in a calm atmosphere. It is proposed that at the talks being held between the defense ministers an agreement will be concluded which will envisage the division of the fleet equally according to its combat status as of December 1991 (the Black Sea Fleet was worth 34 trillion Russian rubles at that time) and the sale to Russia—possibly to the state debt account—of the bulk of the Ukrainian half. After the approval of the document by the presidents, 80 percent of the vessels will raise the St. Andrew's flag, 20 percent will hoist the Ukrainian flag, thus marking the transition to stage two—the division of bases. Several options are being studied here. The most popular solution is to lease the Sevastopol base to Russia for five years with a subsequent extension of the lease. Ukraine is content with the remaining bases from Izmail to Donuzlav. Ukrainian Navy headquarters will be transferred to one of them. The ratios have been observed here—around 80 percent of the Black Sea Fleet infrastructure is based at Sevastopol. But a quick and easy solution cannot be expected—the "status of Sevastopol" has to be ratified both in the newly elected Ukrainian parliament and the State Duma, which has definite experience of examining this question.

"I see no other possibility of resolving the problem than to lease Russia a base for the fleet at Sevastopol and withdraw the Ukrainian fleet," Kravchuk noted, "otherwise there will be no peace. Right now the fleet, which used to be regarded as a common asset—and I do not want to dramatize things—is not subordinated to Ukraine. It is necessary to sort things out as soon as possible so that this becomes Russia's navy under Russian laws and Ukraine has its own navy corresponding to its needs."

The present agreement on the division of the navy is the fifth in the past two years. The previous good intentions—the agreements at Dagomys, Yalta, Massandra, and Zavidovo—have not been implemented. Circumstances have changed now, it is true—the Odessa incident showed that it is not only inconvenient but dangerous to live a divided existence in the same home.

Fleet Issue Seen Driving Ukraine Into Corner

MK2304091094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Apr 94 p 4

[Yuriy Selivanov report in the "Navy" column: "Where Will the Ukraine Navy Be Based? It Seems That the 'Odessa Incident' Has Turned Out Badly for Ukraine"]

[Text] Presidents are known to reach accord in principle, relying on corresponding ministers and experts for details. In this respect the latest Moscow round of talks on the Black Sea Fleet problem was not an exception. Yet, as it transpired, this time the framework of the general agreement reached appeared too broad for the defense ministers of Russia and Ukraine, who met in Sevastopol, to come to any mutual understanding. True, despite the general vagueness of the formula coordinated in Moscow, it has one perfectly unambiguous point: Both presidents state the impossibility of joint basing of the two countries' navies. No doubt, this conclusion was precipitated by the "Odessa incident" which occurred shortly prior to the Moscow meeting, in the course of which military servicemen of the two countries all but started shooting one another.

It is hard to tell what, except emotions, moved Leonid Kravchuk to agree to the principle of separate navy basing; yet pretty soon it became clear that he has thus driven the Ukraine Navy into a corner. Two days later Kiev realized this and made a U-turn: It again started saying that Sevastopol should be an area for the joint basing of the Ukraine and Russian Navies. The reason for such a panicky change of position is evident. It suddenly emerged that the Ukraine Navy, apart from Sevastopol where it is now located, simply has nowhere else to go. And although there are plenty of naval bases on the Ukrainian Black Sea coast, the option of redeploying the Ukraine Navy somewhere in Donuzlav or moreover Odessa appears quite fantastic. Hundreds, and in the future thousands, of

Ukraine navy officers will simply refuse to move from their cozy Sevastopol apartments to a place where nothing is waiting for them. Therefore Kiev's agreement to withdraw its fleet from Sevastopol is almost synonymous with losing the fleet itself. At any rate, the greater part of its officer corps. Aware of this, Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy during the talks in Sevastopol sought to contest the sole specific agreement reached by the presidents—on separate basing of the fleets. Yet nothing came of this plan.

The presidents' points of view, coordinated in Moscow, have touched off an avalanche of irreversible consequences for Ukraine. Crimean and Sevastopol city authorities came into the game, confirming unequivocally their extremely negative attitude to the Ukraine Navy's being based in Sevastopol.

Apparently feeling that things have gone too far, Leonid Kravchuk, after returning to Kiev, confirmed that Sevastopol will be a base of the Russian Navy, although—he added in the same breath—it will remain a Ukrainian city. This approach will hardly arouse particular enthusiasm among the Ukraine seamen who have been placed in a quandary by their own president. It is perfectly obvious that Russia, relying on the presidents' agreements in Moscow, will not back down, especially given that in Sevastopol the Russian Navy is today assured 100-percent public and political support.

The Ukraine Navy has been left with only two options, one worse than the other: Either to hold on to Sevastopol no matter what, which, apart from other things, is fraught with the threat of perennial conflicts between the two navies; or to look for a new basing location, therefore running the risk of being left without the seamen.

It is clear today that the so-called "Odessa incident," which demonstrated graphically the impossibility of the navies' coexistence, has ill served Kiev, forcing Leonid Kravchuk to accept the separate basing idea. In light of this, the excessive excitability demonstrated by the Ukraine military in the course of the Odessa events, which manifested itself in an unprovoked armed seizure of the 318th Black Sea Fleet Division, turned out to be a provocation against Ukraine's own interests, whose consequences Kiev will be hard put to neutralize. Unless, of course, one presumes that the provocation organically fits into a certain confrontation scenario, which is today a subject of extensive discussion by many analysts in Kiev.

Israel's Rabin Interviewed on Eve of Visit

PM2204133394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Pulse of the Planet" rubric: "Y. Rabin Looks Forward to Meeting With Russia"; from the "evening edition"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that during his visit to Moscow, which begins on Sunday [24 April], he intends to discuss with President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders questions concerning a peaceful settlement to the Near East conflict and the further development of bilateral relations.

In connection with this the head of the Israeli Government noted in particular: "I am looking forward to my visit to Russia. It will be my first visit to Moscow, and these will be my first meetings with President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. I have already met Foreign Minister Kozyrev several times, and in my view, he is a very intelligent and businesslike person. I have also met with other figures from the upper echelons of the Russian Government. I intend to discuss a number of questions concerning bilateral relations in the sphere of the economy, trade, and agriculture. During my visit certain agreements may be signed. In addition I will be going to St. Petersburg—the native city of my mother and her family."

Touching on the problems of the Near East settlement, Y. Rabin especially stressed that "Russia, as one of the cosponsors of the Madrid Conference, could help to create conditions facilitating direct talks between ourselves and other participants in the conflict. Peace cannot be imposed, but the cosponsors can help to bring it nearer." [last sentence omitted in later "Nighttime Edition" of newspaper]

Dwelling on Israeli-Russian relations, Yitzhaq Rabin noted: "Russia is a large country. Many Israeli citizens were born in Russia, so that Russian culture has had a huge influence on Israel. This applies to music, literature, and poetry. Many new immigrants, arriving here from Russia, brought with them their extensive abilities in the most varied spheres. I can state with confidence that Israel has numerous and deep roots in Russia."

Israeli Prime Minister's Visit Previewed

LD2204174094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The visit to Russia by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, which begins on Sunday [24 April], will be the first in the history of bilateral relations. "We have enough things to discuss," a senior Foreign Minister official, Viktor Gogitidze, told Interfax on Friday.

According to him, two big packages of issues will be discussed in the course of talks Rabin will have with President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. "This will include primarily Russian-Israeli relations. Solid legal foundations will be built for them for the first time ever. Several bilateral agreements, accords on cooperation in such areas, as culture, science and agriculture among them, are expected to be signed in Moscow," the diplomat said.

The other package includes issues connected with a settlement in the Middle East, he said. "Rabin's visit to Moscow is particularly important, since it will take place at the conclusion of negotiations on Gaza and Jericho. We intend to discuss the possible ways out of the complicated situation the negotiating process has reached, so that agreements on Gaza and Jericho could be signed in the next few days. This would be conducive to lowering tensions in the occupied territories," Gogitidze said.

According to him, "participants in the talks will focus on the Syrian direction." "Much in the efforts to gain peace and stability in the Middle East will depend on how the things will move in that direction. Unfortunately, movement in the Syrian direction slowed down of late," the diplomat said. "Therefore we intend to discuss separately the Israeli vision of settlement, what is needed to break the stalemate in the negotiating process, what Russia can do as a cosponsor of the peace process and a country that maintains close ties with both Syria and Israel."

Interfax's interviewee also mentioned Russia's intention to get "first-hand information" as to what Rabin meant concretely when he proclaimed willingness to remove Israeli settlers from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria. "This is a totally new development of events," he said.

When asked whether Moscow intends to exert "pressure" on Rabin, as the PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat, who visited Moscow recently, wanted, Gogitidze said: "As a cosponsor of the peace process Russia refrains from exerting pressure on anyone. What is needed is a compromise that would suit both sides. Nothing should be pressed on any side. What has been pressed on someone will never be carried out."

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin Begins Visit to Moscow

LD2404114294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1057 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Babkin and Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Moscow today on an official visit. The head of the Israeli Government is accompanied by a representative delegation of officials.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin welcomed the distinguished visitor at Vnukovo-2 Airport.

Chernomyrdin, Rabin Sign Bilateral Agreements

LD2504100394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The official part of the visit to Russia by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin started today. It is the first such visit in the history of relations between our two countries. In the morning the high-ranking guest laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier and honored the memory of the Soviet soldiers who lost their lives in the fight against fascism.

Today Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin received the Israeli prime minister. They discussed bilateral relations, the broadening of economic, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation, and international problems, including a settlement of the Middle East conflict. Right now the parties are signing six intergovernmental agreements on developing cooperation in the field of science and culture, the health service, and agriculture. The Israeli prime minister plans to meet Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin, the chairmen of the chambers of the Russian parliament, today. Meetings are also planned with Russian Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Pavel Grachev. The visit will last four days, one of which the Israeli prime minister will spend in St. Petersburg, his mother's birthplace.

More Details on Chernomyrdin-Rabin Talks

TA2504111994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian prime minister has proposed that Russia and Israel cooperate on military and defense issues. In a meeting between the prime ministers of both countries this morning, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin denied reports that Russia is going to sell arms to Syria. IDF Radio's correspondent Qobi Meydan reports from Moscow:

[Begin recording] [Meydan] Israeli sources described the meeting between the Russian and Israeli prime ministers as good, even excellent. The highlight of this meeting was Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's proposal for military and defense cooperation with Israel. At the same time, Mr. Chernomyrdin denied that Russia is about to sell arms to Syria. When the issue came up, the Russian prime minister, after denying such reports, turned to Rabin and suggested that Israel purchase weapons from the Russians. Rabin, for his part, raised some additional issues.

[Rabin] I raised several issues in the hope that Russia, which is currently resuming its activity as cosponsor [last word in English] of the negotiations, will help us reach agreements first with the Palestinians and Syria—which of course are the two key issues—and then with Jordan and Lebanon. We also hope that Russia will use its connections with Iran, Syria, and other Arab countries to create an atmosphere conducive to peace.

[Meydan] Viktor Chernomyrdin said that Russia will remain an active mediator in the Middle East peace process, just as it has been active in other areas of conflict, such as Yugoslavia. The two men also discussed the recent tension surrounding Russia's uncoordinated involvement in the peace process. Both sides preferred to withhold comment on this.

As for economic issues, a series of agreements, from agriculture to culture and science, were signed at the meeting. The trade agreement between Russia and Israel has still not been signed. The Russians are pressing to sign the trade agreement in the course of Rabin's visit, perhaps by tomorrow. Experts are currently at work formulating the agreement. The problem is Israel's fears of Russia flooding the local market with cheap products. Prime

Minister Rabin, who realized how important this is to the Russian officials, instructed the Israeli team to step up its efforts to find an acceptable formulation that will allow the agreement to be signed.

At the Jewish Agency building in Moscow, Rabin met with Russian immigrants due to fly to Israel tonight. He also met with a group of Hebrew teachers from various CIS republics. Rabin told everyone that despite all the difficulties, their place is in Israel. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 25 April, in a report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz, adds that "a high-level Russian delegation, including several government ministers, left for Syria this morning in order to discuss future arms deals; however, Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin categorically promised his guest Yitzhaq Rabin that it had been authorized to discuss only the sale of spare parts for arms Syria already possesses and not arms deals for new weapons." The report adds that "Rabin told his host that Ron Arad is being held either by Iran or by an Iranian element in Lebanon" and that "Chernomyrdin promised that Russia will do everything in its power to come up with information on this matter. Another issue discussed was the sale of a Russian power plant to Iran. The Russian prime minister promised that the plant would supply only electric power and plays no part in Iran's attempts to attain nuclear capability." Qol Yisra'el notes that "the Russians continue to support sanctions against Iraq, a fact that was also welcomed by the Israeli delegation."]

Chernomyrdin News Conference on Talks

LD2504110394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0959 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—"The position of the Russian Government and president on Middle East is that settlement in the area should be reached by peaceful means and that all armed clashes should stop. Our position on settlement in former Yugoslavia is the same," Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, said today while answering questions from journalists after the conclusion of his talks with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the state of Israel.

The head of the Russian cabinet emphasized particularly that the Russian government "intends to do everything possible to reach a peace settlement in the Middle East".

At the end of intergovernment Russian-Israeli talks, which lasted about two hours, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Yitzhaq Rabin signed six agreements between the governments of the two countries: on scientific and technical cooperation, on economic, scientific and technical cooperation in the agro-industrial complex, on avoiding dual taxation, on cooperation in health care and medicine, on cooperation in education and culture and on cooperation in tourism.

Highly assessing the importance of these agreements for the development of bilateral relations, the Russian premier spoke about the necessity for the conclusion of a Russian-Israeli document on trade and economic relations in the immediate future. He pointed out that Russia and Israel have favorable prospects for expanding cooperation in various spheres including the economy and military spheres.

It has become known to the ITAR-TASS correspondent from sources in the Russian Government delegation that during the talks various aspects of Russian-Israeli relations were discussed in detail and that the two sides spoke in favor of developing mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation. The importance of strengthening the friendly relations between Russia and Israel, of which the broad cultural and humanitarian ties are an important factor, was also pointed out during the talks. A number of topical international issues including the situation in the Middle East were also discussed.

Repying to the question whether the "Zhirinovskiy phenomenon" has any influence on increasing the threat of anti-Semitism in Russia, Viktor Chernomyrdin gave the assurance that "a large number of Jews live today in Russia but they are not threatened by any kind of anti-Semitism and that no kind of 'Zhirinovskiys' will be able to whip up anti-Semitism." "Fascism or anti-Semitism will not prevail in Russia. Though, of course, there are certain forces which would like to agitate the situation by bringing up the ethnic issue."

Yeltsin Middle East Representative on Peace Process

LD2404212094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1345 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Studio interview with Viktor Viktorovich Posuvalyuk, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special representative for a settlement in the Middle East, by correspondent Vitaliy Gan; from the "Panorama" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Gan] With us in the studio is Viktor Viktorovich Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special representative for a settlement in the Middle East. Viktor Viktorovich, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has just ended a visit to Russia. Yitzhaq Rabin began a visit today. It is thought that attempts are being made to draw Moscow more actively into Middle Eastern affairs. However, some say that after our diplomacy's major fiasco in Bosnia, this is the last straw. What do you think?

[Posuvalyuk] Vitaliy, despite the shortage of time and the fact that this is not my area of competence, not my territory, I would like very briefly to oppose the view of those who talk about the fiasco of Russian diplomacy in Yugoslav affairs. First, this problem is insoluble without Russia. Second, events have revealed the nonuniformity, the political diversity of the Bosnian Serbs. Third, I am convinced that had it not been for the minister's visit—had it not been for Vitaliy Churkin's mission—events would immediately have acquired an even more ominous nature. Fourth, and maybe most importantly, strong-arm methods are not in themselves effective. As someone who sat through the bombing in Baghdad during the Gulf War, I can very definitely testify to that.

Now with regard to the visits, Russia, as a great power, has two key roles with relation to the Middle East. First, it is a close neighbor, a major power with very broad interests—economic, political, spiritual, religious, and, of course, military. Its second role is as a permanent member of the Security Council and a cosponsor alongside the United States in the Middle East peace process. These visits and talks—'Arafat's visit that has already taken place and Rabin's visit that has begun—will be guided by these two functions, Russia's political functions in the Middle East.

There have already been and there will be specific conversations on bilateral relations. At the same time, the president and the minister have already heard 'Arafat's view, and now they will have conversations with Rabin on the state of the Middle East peace process. Here there are mutual claims and reproaches from both sides. I think that Russia has an opportunity as cosponsor to smooth out some points and move matters forward. God willing, an agreement on Gaza and Jericho will be signed at the beginning of May.

[Gan] It is said that 'Arafat's authority and influence in the Arab world has been on the decline since he signed the agreement with Israel. Is that correct?

[Posuvalyuk] I think it would be more correct not to talk about how far 'Arafat's popularity rating has risen or fallen. I think the point is that 'Arafat has risked his political career, his political future. Here one must talk not just about 'Arafat but about Prime Minister Rabin as well. In our view, these are courageous political leaders; they are undoubtedly courageous. Take 'Arafat, for example. People are burning photographs of him, burning effigies. Incidentally, it is not only the loudmouths and extremists who are talking about this, but also sometimes, unfortunately, some of our correspondents who are there. Take [RTV correspondent] Vladislav Flyarkovskiy in Tel Aviv, who relishes this subject and has reported on it several times already. Although, incidentally, Israeli television avoids reports of that kind because they understand that the matter concerns a political partner. They are effectively in the same boat. Their future depends on the outcome of the peace process.

As for Rabin, I was in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv recently, and I saw how the radical left-wing [as heard], the extremist wing of Israel's political structure, is trying to whip up hysteria against the government. For Rabin, it is an enormous psychological strain to drive around the city and see everywhere: "Rabin, Rabin the Traitor". I am convinced, however, that the majority of both Palestinians and Israelis are in favor of the peace process and the continuation of talks.

[Gan] Viktor Viktorovich, what do you think are the prospects for a peaceful settlement?

[Posuvalyuk] Well, we have the image—perhaps it is hackneyed—of light at the end of the tunnel. Using the same image, I will say that for many decades—the conflict has been going on practically since the beginning of the century—for many decades, at the end of the tunnel there was either gloom and darkness or the fire of six wars and innumerable senseless conflicts. Now a distant light has appeared. I would not like to fall into euphoria; a distant light has appeared. We all fell into euphoria, incidentally, after 13 September, when the Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington. Maybe we even underestimated the strength of opposition to the peace process. So a distant light has appeared. In the Palestinian talks, in particular, things are moving forward. I say let us hope that an agreement will be signed at the beginning of May.

Soskovets Receives Turkish Defense Minister

LD2204162694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—The amount of Russian-Turkish military cooperation may be significantly increased in the near future, announced Russian First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets during his meeting on Friday with Turkish Defence Minister Mehmet Golhan. At the same time, both sides confirmed that their cooperation in the military sphere must not be detrimental to the interests of any third country.

The two diplomats wholeheartedly called for the Black Sea region to become an area of peace and calm. With that goal in mind, they agreed to combine their efforts to put out the fires of conflicts in the Caucasus region and the Balkans.

The Turkish defence minister reported that his country was ready to discuss the possibility of Russia's participating in the construction of safe, relatively small heating and nuclear power plants in Turkey.

In turn, Soskovets voiced Russia's willingness to positively respond to Turkey's overtures and study the possibility of building a natural gas pipe-line through Georgian and Turkish territory. The implementation of such a project would noticeably improve the economic situation in Georgia, which is suffering from a severe lack of energy resources. He noted that the technical and economic foundation for the project could be completed as quickly as within two or three months.

Both sides expressed their willingness to sign an agreement on cooperation in the training of military personnel in the near future.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow

LD2404140894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1314 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Golubov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino arrived today in the Russian capital on a visit. It is the first visit to Russia by the head of Panama's foreign policy department since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in March 1991.

Mulino will spend two days in Moscow and two in St Petersburg. During his visit, the Panamanian foreign minister will meet his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev. Contacts are expected also with other members of the Russian cabinet of ministers, parliamentarians, and representatives of Russian business circles.

The talks are expected to result in the signing of a declaration on the principles governing the development of bilateral relations and a joint statement of intent to raise the status of diplomatic missions to the level of embassies.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on the eve of the visit Mulino stated that the Panamanian Government attaches tremendous importance to the development and strengthening of mutually beneficial relations with Russia. "Panama and Russia today share common ideals, based on a respect for democratic principles and open access to national economies," he stressed.

Meets With Kozyrev

LD2504102994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0852 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Golubov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Panamanian Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino, who is here on a four-day visit, began at noon today at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry.

Greeting his guest, Kozyrev pointed out that the Russian Government attaches great importance to developing relations with Panama and with Central America as a whole.

It is expected that a declaration on the foundations for biliateral relations and a joint statement on upgrading the status of diplomatic missions to the level of embassies will be signed after the talks.

The talks are continuing.

Foreign Ministry on Japanese Premier's Election

LD2504090394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs today expressed hope that Tsutomu Hata's election as Japan's prime minister will promote "the positive development of the whole range of bilateral relations and consistent and constructive movement toward genuine partnership and good-neighbourliness on the basis of the strategic policy laid down during the Russian-Japanese summit meetings."

In a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, a high-ranking official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation reaffirmed Moscow's immutable policy toward the development of comprehensive relations with Japan on the basis of the Tokyo Declaration adopted during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo last October. Koji Watanabe, Japan's ambassador to Russia, expressed a similar stand in a recent interview to ITAR-TASS.

The Russian diplomat recalled that during Tsutomu Hata's visit to Moscow last month while in the posts of deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, "the positive mood that has been predominant in Russian-Japanese relations recently was very clearly demonstrated".

The foreign ministry official noted that the two sides "face a major task to fill in specific details to the agreements reached in Tokyo last October and to bring them to a practical level." He expressed hope that "this work will succeed through joint efforts in line with the key interests of the Russian and the Japanese people."

The Russian diplomat said that "active political dialogue with Japan, including top level contacts, will help" to achieve these aims. He recalled that an invitation to visit Russia was handed to the Japanese prime minister last October and confirmed in March; it remains in force despite the change of government in Japan. Bearing in mind that the Russian head of state visited Japan last year, the diplomat said, it is now the turn of the Japanese.

According to the high-ranking official from the Russian Foreign Ministry, "there is every reason to look with optimism at the future of Russian-Japanese relations, even though both sides will naturally have to make intense efforts to further these relations—a point on which the two countries see eye to eye."

Yeltsin Aide Hopes For Good Relations

LD2504105294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—A senior official of President Yeltsin's administration has stressed the important role of ex-prime minister of Japan Morihiro Hokosawa in the development of relations between the two countries. He expressed hope that the new Japanese government, headed by Tsutomu Hata who was elected prime minister today, would pursue the same policy in this sphere.

"I think Hosokawa has done very much for the development of Russian-Japanese relations," head of a department of the press service of the Russian president and specialist in Japanese studies Aleksandr Orfenov told ITAR-TASS today. In his opinion, Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo last October is proof to it. Important documents were signed during the visit.

"We hope Hata will continue the political course of the previous cabinet, aimed at developing relations with the Russian Federation," the spokesman for the president's press service said. In his opinion, Hata's statements during his visit to Moscow last March give grounds for such hope. Judging by those statements, he is a sober-minded politician.

According to Orfenov, it is regrettable that during Tsutomu Hata's recent visit to Moscow President Yeltsin was on leave in Sochi and could not meet him. At that time Tsutomu Hata was deputy prime minister and head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry. "I think it would be useful for them both to meet and establish personal contacts," he said.

Official Welcomes New Premier

OW2504025594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 25 KYODO—A senior Russian official on Monday [25 April] lauded Japan's new prime minister-to-be Tsutomu Hata for his past contributions to improving bilateral ties.

"Mr. Hata contributed to a smooth development of the Russia-Japan relationship," said Nikolay Solovyov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Asia-Pacific Department.

Hata is expected to be elected Japan's new prime minister later in the day following the resignation of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's cabinet.

Hata visited Russia in March as foreign minister, and assured Russian leaders of Japan's continued support for reforms.

Solovyov, a former Russian ambassador to Tokyo, also called for progress in bilateral relations to solve "the issue that is difficult to reach an agreement on,"—an apparent reference to the thorny territorial question.

The dispute over a group of Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, which Japan claims are part of its territory, has kept the bilateral relations in a chill since the end of World War II.

Talks Held With Japan on Radioactive Waste

LD2304182994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] On Saturday in Vladivostok, a Russian-Japanese inter-governmental commission concluded the Russian stage of the discussions devoted to the search for ways to solve the problem of storage and re-processing of liquid radioactive wastes which is very pressing for the Maritime territory today. The work is to be continued in Tokyo. On April 24 the joint delegation is to go to Japan.

In the course of the conference a concept of a complex approach to the selection of different means was presented to the Japanese party which proposes to the Maritime territory its financial and technological assistance to solve the problem of storage and utilization of liquid radioactive wastes.

It was proposed to urgently start construction of a complex of surface stationary storage facilities for liquid radioactive wastes with the capacity 2000 cubic meters on the coast of the cape of Sysoyev which would have all necessary systems and mechanisms to prevent leakage of liquid radioactive wastes from the tankers TNT.

The second stage, namely designing and construction of an autonomous mobile floating complex to re-process liquid radioactive wastes available and being generated in the Maritime territory (which can be dumped into the open sea), is to be implemented simultaneously.

As head of the Russian delegation Nikolay Yegorov, Russia's deputy Atomic Energy Minister and co-chairman of the Russian-Japanese committee on nuclear disarmament, underlined, the developed approach to the problem of liquid radioactive wastes in the Maritime territory expresses a single opinion of the Russian party and is proposed as the most acceptable variant in case the Japanese party finances the planned works.

Foreign Ministry on DPRK Nuclear Issue, Debts

LD2204152594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—The issue of introduction of U.N. economic sanctions against North Korea due to its suspected development of nuclear arms is not on today's agenda, head of the Korean division of the Russian Foreign Ministry's First Asian Department Valentin Moiseyev told ITAR-TASS here today.

In his words, the Russian Foreign Ministry proceeds from the fact diplomatic methods have not been exhausted. This stand is shared by other interested nations, including China, said Moiseyev.

The official reminded of the Russian proposal to convene a multilateral conference on security and non-nuclear status of the Korean peninsula, which, in his words, "has been positively estimated by all potential participants in the conference with the exception of North Korea". The potential participants include the Russian federation, the United States, China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, as well as representatives of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

At the same time, Moscow is using all political methods to influence Pyongyang and has informed North Korea of its stand, said Moiseyev. For instance, Moscow has invited the deputy North Korean foreign minister to visit Russia in early summer within the framework of bilateral diplomatic contacts. But all Russian diplomatic efforts "cannot have a force nature or pressure form," stressed the official.

If the question of sanctions or russian participation in them is raised, "one will have to take into account feasible consequences of this step not only for North Korea but also for Russia," said Moiseyev.

The Russian-North Korean goods turnover amounted to 530 million U.S. dollars in 1993, which is 25-30 per cent of the North Korean foreign trade turnover. Russia exported 450 millions worth of goods to North Korea and purchased 80 millions worth of products there. The problem of the North Korean debt to the former Soviet Union and Russia, which is estimated at approximately three billion dollars, remains unsettled.

Article Views DPRK Nuclear Program 'Scandal'

PM2504085794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22-25 Apr 94 p 5

["KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Investigation" article by Sergey Pluzhnikov, Sergey Sokolov, and Mikhail Morozov "prepared from materials from more than 100 open Western and Russian publications": "Will Kim Il-song Explode Our Atom Bomb?"]

[Excerpts] There has long been a debate over North Korea's preparations for a nuclear attack on imperialism—a debate which, with time, has been attracting more and more new rumors and facts. For a long time this problem remained overshadowed by the real nuclear threats to the world posed by the superpowers. But now that a relative lull has ensued in the years-long arms race between the United States and the USSR, readers have been swamped by a wave of information about North Korea's hush-hush nuclear program from the pages of many countries' respectable publications. Grandfather Kim Il-song, whose "chuche" ideas elicited only a wry smile, was instantly transformed by journalists' pens into a maniac capable of pressing the nuclear button at any moment. The current surge of interest, mixed with fear, in North Korea's nuclear affairs has also been occasioned by the proximity of this "preserve of socialism" to Japan, the only country to have experienced the nightmare of nuclear bombing raids. Recently all the arguments have boiled down to one question—does Kim Il-song have a bomb, with whose help he could smash to smithereens a very strong mainstay of the world economy? [passage omitted]

Hand of Moscow

An unprecedented scandal, connected with the improvement of missiles and of the DPRK nuclear program as a whole, erupted in October 1992. Security Ministry staffers detained 36 Russian scientists at Sheremetyevo-2 Airport. They had been intending to fly to Pyongyang along with their families.

It later came to light that prominent representatives of the Russian military-industrial complex had wanted to get jobs in the DPRK and had already drawn up contracts: Professor Arkadiy Bakhmutov, specialist in rocket engine building and winner of the Komsomol [All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League] Prize; Doctor of Sciences Valeriy Strakhov, department head at the Scientific Research Institute of Special Machine Building in Bochkovo; Yuriy Bessarabov, one of the creators of the Zyb rocket and a Komsomol Prize winner; and other specialists in the sphere of rocket building. The organizer of this work landing force on the Russian side was Anatoliy Rubtsov, a specialist in the sphere of solid state physics well known in the circles of scientists working for the military-industrial complex. The organizer on the DPRK side was Major General Nam Chae-uk, who was declared persona non grata by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Security.

Anatoliy Rubtsov told journalists that a plan had existed to send 200 Russian scientists to the DPRK to create the scientific base of North Korean rocket building. "I did not initiate it," Rubtsov maintained. "In August 1992 Stepanov, chief of the Russian Federation Industry Ministry Machine Building Administration, visited North Korea and signed a general agreement in this regard. It was proposed that I form a group. But South Korea promised Russia aid of $1 billion, and the Russian Government abruptly changed the state policy and agreed to restrictions in relations with the DPRK." At the same time Rubtsov said that the North Koreans had "approached" him back in April 1991, when he was lecturing in Beijing: "I was made a suitable offer of permanent work, and I accepted it. I was elected a member of the North Korean Academy of Sciences and appointed director of a scientific research institute. My younger sister passed dollars to someone at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in exchange obtained from the First Consular Section clean passports for 200 people to travel abroad. The money had been passed to me by a representative of the North Korean Embassy in Moscow, and my receipt was sent to Pyongyang."

Almost all the scientists detained at Sheremetyevo-2 told journalists the same thing: "It is all the same to us for which political purposes our knowledge might be used; we only wanted to carry on doing our favorite thing."

According to data in some respectable publications, more than 20 Russian scientists nonetheless managed to get work in the DPRK (mainly through China). They live there under aliases, make $3,000-4,000 a month, and want for nothing. According to press allegations, however, some of our scientists no longer need to risk and negotiate border checkpoints in order to work on the North Korean nuclear program. They sit at home and send their calculations to Pyongyang by computer mail, which it is not yet possible to monitor.

Patriot Games

Strange though it may seem, the noisy and protracted scandal surrounding North Korea's nuclear program is advantageous to almost all the political forces involved in it. Kim Il-song, by ambiguously denying the existence of the bomb and not admitting International Atomic Energy Agency experts to certain nuclear installations, is attracting universal attention to his rotten regime and probably hoping in the future to secure some financial injections for the paralyzed economy. Russia is getting a strong argument in its dialogue with Japan over the transfer of the northern territories: Forget about the Kurils for the time that it takes to neutralize all our scientists, without whom the DPRK nuclear program will simply collapse. Incidentally, Russia, which is still lagging behind the grand international politics of the United States, is in the worst position in this game—there is a great risk of losing for a very long time its former influence in this region, as well as any hope of recovering the multibillion [currency not specified] debt from the DPRK. China, remaining neutral in respect of Pyongyang's semimythical nuclear threat, awaits an easing of the U.S. economic sanctions. The Japanese military is acquiring authority and influence in its own state, increasingly insistently demanding that the government increase defense appropriations. Finally, the United States and NATO, successfully prompting Japan to create—with their participation, naturally—a costly ABM "umbrella," are cherishing the hope of securing not only military orders worth billions [currency not specified] but also access to unique Japanese technologies, which, as a result, will enable the Americans to weaken their main economic rival. Seoul with its 10 million residents, keeping calm, as usual, when targeted by North Korea's 8,400 howitzers and 2,400 missile launchers, is more concerned about rice prices at present.

All this resembles a cynically conceived conspiracy, in which all are at one, but the leading role is, of course, played by the United States. Only it is of very great concern that in such games the situation frequently gets out of control.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Meets Duma Faction Leaders on Accord

LD2204172394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 78 (568): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] On Friday afternoon President Boris Yeltsin met with leaders of the State Duma factions. The meeting focused on a draft agreement on civil accord. The new document which is in essence a reviewed variant of the draft was discussed the day earlier by the State Duma. The opinions of the leaders of the factions differed. Leaders of agrarians, communists, liberal democrats stated their negative attitude to the draft. These factions control more than one third of deputy mandates. The document was also criticized by representatives of the factions Yabloko, New Regional Policy and Russian Democratic Party. However, they noted that the final position on this issue will be determined by the factions later.

The draft agreement on civil accord was unconditionally supported by representatives of the factions Russia's Choice, the Russian Unity and Accord Party and Russia's Women.

Summarizing the results of hearings, speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin stated that "he was absolutely not disappointed" with the discussion. Speaking to journalists he pointed out that deputies' speeches were "adequate to what is happening in the country."

Rybkin considers that it is far from certain that political parties at their conferences, plenums and congresses scheduled for this weekend would support positions of their parliamentary factions which spoke against signing the civil accord agreement. IF Note: According to the presidential plan, the original formula for signing the document on April 28 is as follows: the agreement should be signed by the president, chairmen of the parliament's chambers, prime minister, heads of the federation's subjects, and plenipotentiary representatives of political parties represented in the State Duma, the Public Chamber of the president, trade unions, "and after that the agreement should be opened for the signing by other sides."

In this connection, experts indicate a considerable probability that next Thursday the signing ceremony will be held without representatives of most major parties represented in the Duma. Some experts do not rule out that among participants in this solemn ceremony there will be no the speaker of the lower chamber. According to their forecasts, that may happen if deputies, in response to the LDP leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, refuse to authorize the speaker with signing the agreement.

Yeltsin Aide Assesses Opposition to Accord

PM2204155994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with G.A. Satarov, aide to the Russian Federation president, by Vasily Kononenko; date and place not given: "Those Not Signing Accord Treaty Will Not Be Branded 'Enemies of the People'"]

[Text] The concluding phase of work on the Treaty on Social Accord has clearly run into a holdup. A number of State Duma factions have delivered virtually an ultimatum demanding that their "specific interests" be taken into account. It is possible that this show of dissidence was organized in order to reserve themselves a place on the sidelines of the system, which not everyone in society is greeting with applause.

Most likely greater clarity will emerge in this process following the meeting between B. Yeltsin and representatives of Federal Assembly factions. What are expected at that meeting are a speech from the president, a report on the attitude to the treaty of the main political forces and regions, which will be delivered by S. Filatov, leader of the president's administration, and speeches from the leaders of both houses of parliament, and also faction leaders. Nevertheless, the main approaches and stances with regard to this most important document can be seen right now. The president's aide G. Satarov answered the IZVESTIYA correspondent's questions.

[Kononenko] Georgiy Aleksandrovich, does it surprise you that only three factions in the State Duma as of today support the treaty, or do you accept it as logical?

[Satarov] It is not surprising in the least. The opponents of this document advance no convincing arguments, but they do uphold their own political interests. In other words, it is a matter not of the document's contents but of the factions' attitudes. Just take a look at the similar theses of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] and the Communists! They say: This agreement represents the preservation of the present regime until the elections. In the language of political scientists this means: It is possible to fight for power right now—therefore, we will fight for power.

[Kononenko] But perhaps these factions' proposals were not taken into consideration?

[Satarov] They were all initially agreed on the following approach: No proposals should impinge on the sides' constitutional powers. The LDPR representatives' demand for the removal of six ministers from the government, for example, impinges on the executive's constitutional powers. Therefore they cannot be a subject for discussion.

[Kononenko] What is the assumed list of participants in the treaty?

[Satarov] It will evidently be signed by the president, the prime minister, the patriarch of All Rus and the leaders of other religions creeds, the leaders of factions and the main trade union organizations and regions, and so forth.

[Kononenko] What is the mood in the regions?

[Satarov] Judging by the information arriving from the regions, no one disagrees with the document. There is a readiness to sign it without criticism and with the corresponding proposals. These proposals have already been received by the working group. I have not come across anything unacceptable in them.

[Kononenko] Can attacks be expected on those who do not give their signatures to this treaty?

[Satarov] No one intends to declare them "enemies of the people." Everyone still has a chance to accede to this document.

Yeltsin: Accord 'Capable of Saving Russia'

LD2204180994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The idea of civic accord has become nearly an obsession in our society but so far none of the politicians and leaders of different factions have shown particular enthusiasm about the forthcoming signing of that document, which is to take place on 28 April in the St. George Hall in the Kremlin. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent T. Aldoshina] Representatives of political parties and public movements will be given air time and, with it, an opportunity to make their opinion known to the people - especially on the eve of the signing of the civic accord agreement. Their right to do this is guaranteed by a presidential decree. Its existence became known at today's meeting of Boris Yeltsin with representatives of the factions of the State Duma. This concession to the parties' demands was made by the president in order to confirm that there are alternatives to extremism and confrontation in Russia. The obligations proclaimed by those who are going to sign the agreement contain a hope for successful implementation of the idea of civic peace.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] We are talking not about an ordinary compromise. It is capable of saving Russia at the present stage. At the same time, the participants in the agreement are by no means renouncing their convictions, programs, and platforms - there is no need for that. On the contrary, one of the aims of the agreement is to offer to all political forces peaceful, non-violent ways of achieving their goals. [end recording]

[Aldoshina] Yeltsin aide Georgiy Satarov has described the attitudes of the faction leaders to the idea of an all-saving compromise, namely civic accord. In his opinion, virtually all of those present at today's meeting with the president spoke in favor of signing the agreement. The ubiquitous Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was the first to support the president. The Agrarians and Communists are also for it on the whole but they have certain conditions, so it is not yet clear if they will join the agreement together with the main group of signatories. The Yabloko bloc was the only one to speak categorically against signing it, in the sense that Yabloko is ready to do all it can for the idea of civic peace and accord but does not intend to sign any declarations.

Rybkin Sees Opinion in Favor of Civic Accord

LD2204184794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1801 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The absolute majority of signatories are ready to put their signatures under the agreement on civic accord. This opinion was voiced by Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the Federal Assembly's lower chamber, in a conversation with journalists after the meeting between Russian president and leaders of the State Duma factions.

He assessed the president's decision to cancel decree No 1590 as a move of conciliation (the participants of the meeting were informed about this during the meeting). As it is known, "a black list" of former deputies of the Supreme Soviet disbanded by the presidential decree No 1400 due to their participation in the October events in Moscow was compiled on the basis of this decree.

In Rybkin's words, they have reached an agreement that all leaders of the State Duma factions will be granted an opportunity to express their point of view regarding the agreement on civic accord over the first channel of the Ostankino TV company.

While informing the State Duma deputies on the results of the meeting, Rybkin reported that on April 25 the Federation Council should determine whether it would commission Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko to sign the document along with the constituent members or whether it would be enough if the constituent members put their signatures under this document.

Aleksandr Piskunov (New Regional Policy group) reported that there are already 140 constituent members ready to sign this agreement, including all constituent members of the Russian Federation. As he said, it would take two days to revise the document.

Yevgeniy Novikov, member of the working group in charge for the preparation of the document (Party of Russian Unity and Concord faction) reported that the president assessed the question on possible political persecution of those who would not sign the agreement on civic accord as "absolute nonsense." In his words, Yeltsin declared that he would not change his attitude to any parties if they do not sign this document.

Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord, believes that April 28, the day of signing, is "the beginning of a difficult, long, and tiring process in the search for an accord."

Shakhray believes that if the Duma votes against the singing of this document this will be unnatural because the Duma itself started this process by adopting the memorandum on accord on February 23. In addition, when the president, the government, the constituent members, and trade unions sign this document, the absence of the State Duma could lead "to self-isolation of the chamber."

Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, believes that signing would take place and "the absolute majority" would sign the agreement. In his opinion, if there is at least one percent of something which can reconcile the society, it should be used."

Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russian Vladimir Zhirinovskiy reported to journalists that his faction would consider the issue at its sitting scheduled for April 26. At the same time he did not declare that he does not intend to sign this document because, as he said, signing is quite possible "as a compromise for further movement forward." He reported that he had presented his point of view regarding the concept of the country's development and agreed to privately meet with the president.

"If several opposition factions do not sign this agreement it will be a norm of democratic life," Zhirinovsky is convinced.

The Yabloko faction definitely declared its refusal to sign the document at the meeting with the president. The faction's representative Vyacheslav Shestakovskiy underlined that the faction had adopted an absolutely definite decision on this issue.

Republic Heads Adopt Statement on Accord

PM2504095194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Heads of Republics Within the Russian Federation Support It..."]

[Text] On 21 April, the Russian president held a meeting with the leaders of the republics within the Russian Federation. The heads of the republics participating in the meeting adopted the following statement:

"We participants in the meeting with the Russian Federation president, representing the leadership of republics within the Russian Federation, aspiring to stability and the affirmation of the traditions of dialogue, compromise, and partnership in politics, declare our support for the idea of ensuring civil peace and accord in our multiethnic country at a crucial stage in its history.

"Together with the Russian Federation president, we believe that the signing of the Agreement on Achieving Civil Accord in Russia should demonstrate to Russians that politicians, state institutions, and Russian Federation components are capable of finding common positions for the effective settlement of urgent and socially important tasks within the framework of economic and social transformations. Political ambitions, hostility, and extremism in federal relations may hinder the quest for a joint way out of the crisis, and undermine trust in organs of power at all levels.

"We appeal to state, political, and social circles in Russia to assume responsibility for the stable and consistent development of our country, and to become involved in the concluding process of the preparation and signing of the agreement."
dated] Moscow, The Kremlin, 21 April 1994

Yeltsin Aide: Yabloko Not to Sign Accord

LD2204174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Only one parliamentary faction, Yabloko, will not sign the agreement on public accord, presidential aide Georgiy Satarov declared at a briefing on Friday in the Kremlin commenting on Boris Yeltsin's meeting with representatives of Russia's leading political forces. In his words, all other factions and parties are looking for their own ways to sign this document.

Satarov underlined that the working group in charge of the preparation of this agreement for signing still receives proposals both from political structures and individuals. As he said, the final text of the agreement is due to be ready on April 26. On April 27 the State Duma will have to pass a decision on the text which cannot be changed.

Satarov believes that the overwhelming majority of the Russia's constituent regions and republics will sign the agreement. According to available information, a total of nine regions have still not reported about their decision to sign this document.

Satarov informed journalists about the conversation held between Yeltsin and participants of this meeting. He said that Yeltsin had declared that his attitude to any group not signing this agreement would not change so as to avoid a new spiral of confrontation.

Gaydar: Civic Accord Agreement Needed

LD2204173594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] An agreement on civil accord should be signed by political forces at least for enabling them to resolve political differences "through elections, through ballot booths, through the press," not through the use of force, the leader of Russia's Choice faction in the State Duma Yegor Gaydar told Interfax on Friday.

A day earlier, during the debates over the signing of the agreement in the State Duma Gaydar spoke in favor of its signing. In his opinion, the parliamentary majority, which in his words, consists of opposition forces should "take responsibility for its like-minded persons", because "to provoke tensions in Russia today is a strike on security."

At the same time, Gaydar acknowledged that the foundation of possible civil accord "is very limited and there can be no agreement with the opposition on program issues." In particular, he pointed to different approaches to private property and the restoration of administrative control over the economy.

Yeltsin Aide on Completion of Civic Accord

LD2204170994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1531 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—The Russian Civic Accord Agreement will be finalized by April 26, Assistant to the Russian President Georgiy Satarov told correspondents here today upon the completion of a working meeting of participants in the Civic Accord Agreement. Satarov cited the Russian president as saying "the working meeting was constructive and very useful". Satarov has an impression practically all Duma factions whose representatives attended the meeting are ready to sign the agreement with the exception of the Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin faction.

The assistant described the speech of Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov as constructive. He said Zyuganov put forward important proposals on finalization of the agreement, including a suggestion to include in the document measures to decrease property differentiation, timely payment of wages and salaries and a tax reform.

Satarov said Zyuganov also commented on the current press campaign to discredit Soviet Marshal Georgiy Zhukov. In his words, the president is considering a possibility to unveil a Zhukov monument on Red Square and institute a Zhukov order on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the victory in the great patriotic war of 1941-1945.

Federation Council Begins Discussion of Draft

LD2504101194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0924 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The Federation Council has begun to discuss the draft treaty on civic concord. Previously President Yeltsin sent a note to Vladimir Shumeyko, which expressed hope that the Federation Council would manage to prepare the text of the treaty for signing. Yeltsin appealed to "the wisdom of deputies and their understanding of common responsibility before Russian citizens."

Academician Boris Topornin, official representative of the Russian president and co-chairman of the public chamber, told the deputies that the draft treaty was the result of collective work and was approved by the majority of members of the working group, which prepared it. "The provisions, that contradict each other, were not included in the text, because it is going to be a document of concord," he explained.

Topornin stressed that the country cannot overcome the economic crisis without political stability. Authors of the draft treaty wanted it to be "neither a party, or group document, but a document reflecting common interests." The treaty will neither amend nor replace the Constitution and other legal acts.

According to Topornin, the item on responsibility for the non- fulfilment of the treaty was removed from the draft document, because "it cannot be based on enforcement and sanctions... Public control and the attitude of the population to it are the most reliable guarantee of its fulfilment," Topornin said.

Agrarian Party Sets Out Conditions for Signing Accord

LD2404070094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The Agrarian Party of Russia will sign the agreement on public accord only after an agreement is concluded between the government and representatives of the agroindustrial complex. This agreement ought to guarantee state purchases of agricultural produce. This decision was made on 23 April at a plenum of the Central Council of the Agrarian Party of Russia. It was attended by Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha, and Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun.

Shumeyko, Rybkin Interviewed

LD2404220294

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1120 GMT on 24 April carries the 40-minute "Live Dialogue" program featuring an interview with Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko and Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin by correspondent Yuliy Semenov.

Semenov introduces Rybkin and Shumeyko and says the topic of discussion will be the agreement on civil accord to be signed on 28 April. He begins by asking why the civil peace accord is needed.

Shumeyko explains that the Constitution was the basis for the '94 election of the chambers of the Federal Assembly. He says: "We must do a lot in Russia now, and without agreement it will be impossible. The Duma has nine factions that unite various political parties, but many parties have been left outside these bodies of state power. There are more than 100 parties all together. There are also many public movements, groups, and public organizations in the provinces. We would like to unite all of them around one goal, the goal of building. Russia needs calm today; Russia must work."

Rybkin suggests that Russia is in the middle of a crisis and accord is needed as soon as possible. He adds that there should be cooperation between all forces in society. He says that the State Duma has already released its own memorandum on accord, and the new document is absolutely necessary.

Shumeyko continues by saying that the people who worked on the new constitution have also contributed to the new agreement on accord, but the new document is less important than the act of signing it. He adds: "The signing of this accord means that every politician takes upon himself the responsibility for this accord. He undertakes to suspend all political battles, thus enabling Russia to work for at least two years, leaving aside the power struggle and the struggle for predomination in various social movements. This is an accord on the politicians' responsibility to find peace and a common language."

Rybkin says that there are also internal, interethnic problems facing Russia and cites relations with Chechnya as an example. He says he hopes that the agreement on accord will help to resolve these problems.

Semenov asks Shumeyko whether Chechnya is a constituent part of the Russian Federation. Shumeyko replies: "The Chechen Republic has been and still is a constituent part of the Russian Federation. The only difference is the politicians' view on this matter. As you know, President Dudayev has been the leader of the Chechen Republic for the last two years. He has been elected by the Chechen people. There is only one document, a decision by the former Congress of People's Deputies, declaring these elections void. And so, on the basis of this single document, as well as on the basis of various declarations—some harsh, others less so—issued by President Dudayev, everyone seems to have decided that Chechnya has separated from Russia. So this nation of 1 million, which is part of Russia, finds itself in a temporary, self-imposed isolation. The Federation Council will continue to work very consistently, but calmly, in order to fully reintegrate the Chechen Republic into Russia."

Shumeyko and Rybkin then discuss the Federation Council and the State Duma's future work on the civil accord and other pending matters.

Semenov asks Shumeyko about the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. Shumeyko replies: "Well, first of all, the fleet certainly must be retained. Russia, as you know, will very soon be celebrating the 300th anniversary of the Russian fleet. The Russian fleet is a Russian creation. The fleet is Russia itself. It is simply impossible to imagine Russia without it. Therefore, it is perfectly clear that it should be retained.

"The decisions that the presidents made—I mean, at the last CIS summit.... [pauses] Representatives of Ukraine and Russia stayed on after the summit. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin had talks with Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk, and the two presidents made a decision to divide up the Black Sea Fleet with a ratio of 20 per cent to 80 percent. You see what happened afterwards, when talks began at lower levels of authority.

"I believe that the process will stabilize, but what I would like to see and what I would like to say by way of warning is that decisions here should not be made rashly. Things should be done more calmly. We all know this. Both the Ukrainians and ourselves know that the fleet should remain, and the Black Sea Fleet will remain and will exist forever. As to what form it should take, I would prefer it to remain as a complete fleet. I believe that this is what will happen eventually—however much the politicians are insisting on their short-term gains today. Short-term gains are very dear to certain politicians. A little time will pass, and the people will have forgotten about today's politicians, but the fleet will be remembered."

Semenov then asks Rybkin about possible trouble on 1 May. Rybkin replies: "I am convinced that on 1 May, the day of spring and labor—our official holiday but also the Orthodox Easter day—the streets in Russia will be calm. People are beginning to understand that there is a need for the accord that we have been talking about for a whole hour today."

Rybkin then adds: "I am sure that we will be both intellectually and emotionally strong enough to understand that we must find a way out of the crisis through joint efforts. As they say, Russia has always been strong through its team spirit, and is famous around the world for its great good deeds rather than for its meanness."

Semenov thanks the listeners and says he hopes to see the chairmen in the Kremlin on 28 April to sign the agreement on public accord.

Rutskoy Ready To Unite, Lead Opposition

LD2404192894 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] [Correspondent Aleksandr Gerasimov] Last week, in an exclusive interview with our program, Aleksandr Rutskoy—who for two months had been keeping a vow of silence following his release from the Lefortovo prison—said he was ready to unite and head all opposition movements inclined toward [word indistinct].

[Begin recording] [Rutskoy] I want to do this.

[Gerasimov] What organizational form could this take?

[Rutskoy] It could be a public political movement, not a party; not now, because people have had enough. It could be a public political movement that would express the interests of society, the interests of the state, and the interests of the individual. An organization of this kind can be set up. It can, and it must. This is the first task that has to be dealt with—to set up a civilized opposition, to draw up clear and easily understood programs, and to publicize them.

I have no doubts that people will follow this public political movement, which would stand for the national interests of the state and its people. They will follow because I just cannot see who they can follow at present. I cannot. I cannot see it, looking objectively at any party, at any public political movement now in existence. I can give way to anyone as soon as I see that there is a person capable of leading, capable of setting up a civilized opposition, capable of explaining the situation clearly to the people and of telling and showing them how and by what means a way out of this situation can be found. [end recording]

[Gerasimov] The former vice-president intends to start forming the opposition movement as soon as the public accord treaty is signed. Rutskoy said: I will see who signs, who volunteers to don a muzzle, and I will try to unite those without a muzzle.

'Working Moscow' Celebrates Lenin Birthday

LD2204175094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1618 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondenbt Igor Belskiy]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 22 Apr—The Working Moscow organization has declared its intention to "continue lawful counteraction" against the Russian authorities at a rally held on the 124th anniversary of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin's birthday. A statement by the organization's Political Council read out on Moscow's Teatralnaya Square today says that it is ready to join the agreement on public accord only "on condition that the country's present leaders withdraw from the political scene."

The organizers of today's mass action are Working Moscow and the Russian Communist Workers' Party. Several thousand people attended the rally. The slogans and appeals that have become traditional at all opposition rallies alternated today with attempts to interpret Lenin's activities. [passage omitted]

Radio Announces May Day Work Holidays

LD2304143594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] For most people in Russia, there will be four days off during the upcoming May Day holiday: Saturday, 30 April; and Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, 1-3 May.

In accordance with a government decision, the management of any particular enterprise or organization may, in agreement with the trade unions, declare 3 May a working day. If citizens work on that day, they will receive an additional day off or monetary compensation at double time.

Nikolay Chishenko, head of the department of labor in the government, clarified this for ITAR-TASS.

State Duma Begins Moving Into New Building

LD2304143094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] In accordance with the president's edict, the Russian State Duma began to move into its official quarters, a complex of buildings in Okhotnyy Ryad in the center of Moscow. The Duma's first plenary session in the new building will be on 11 May.

Federation Council Accepts Kazannik's Resignation

LD2504103694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0939 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The Russian Federation Council voted on Monday to accept the resignation of former prosecutor general Aleksey Kazannik.

121 out of 130 present members of the upper chamber voted for the decision, four against and five abstained.

Kazannik offered to resign in February in connection with the release of anti-Yeltsin rebels after the State Duma proclaimed a political amnesty.

Yeltsin accepted the resignation and appointed Aleksey Ilyushenko as acting prosecutor general.

But Kazannik later changed his mind and the Federation Council, which appoints and dismisses the prosecutor, voted to reinstate him.

To end the crisis Kazannik offered to resign again.

The Federation Council now has to discuss the appointment of Ilyushenko. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was entrusted by the president to press for the appointment in the Federation Council.

Deputies To Examine Relations With PRC

LD2304094194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—Rumors about Chinese expansion in eastern regions of Russia have been greatly exaggerated. This conclusion can be drawn from the results of the trip a group of Federal Assembly deputies made to Amur Oblast and Khabarovsk and Krasnoyark Krays. "There was no confirmation of expansion as a Chinese state policy toward Russia," Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Federation Council, said today at a news conference in parliament's upper chamber.

However, problems do exist in Russo-Chinese relations. This was confirmed by meetings which the members of the International Affairs Committees of the two chambers held with members of the public, representatives of state authorities in the region, law enforcement bodies, and border troops. The delegation returned from Khabarovsk today [22 April]. Parliamentary hearings are scheduled for 25 April "on problems in Russo-Chinese relations and prospects for resolving them." Vladimir Podoprigora told the correspondent that the hearings intend to coordinate common approaches in foreign policy toward China between the government and parliament and between the center and the component parts of the federation.

He pointed out that the problem of state borders falls within the provenance of the upper chamber. This question will be raised at the hearings. In the presence of members of the government, experts, and scholars there will also be discussion of the development of economic relations, the creation of more acceptable conditions for border trade, conditions to ease border crossings for people living in border areas, problems about sojourns by Chinese citizens on Russian territory, and Russian citizens in China.

The deputies' trip and the hearings are also connected with Viktor Chernomyrdin's upcoming visit to China, during which about 10 agreements of various kinds are expected to be signed. The deputies will draw up recommendations at the parliatemtary hearings, but they are unwilling to give these recommendations without hearing various points of view. Therefore, the deputies refrained from assessing the state of Russo-Chinese relations at the news conference.

Advance Copy of Yeltsin's Memoirs Obtained

OW2304121894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin suggests in memoirs to be published next month that Russia may reconsider economic reform being carried out under the leadership of Western organizations such as the International Monetary Fund.

He says in the private notes that two years of economic reform carried out by former First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar showed Russia's peculiarities and that "Russia must go its own way."

KYODO NEWS SERVICE has obtained a copy of his memoirs to be published early may in Russia and abroad.

In it he describes how he has watched and reacted to recent developments in Russia and the former Soviet Union.

It covers the failed coup attempt by conservatives in the former Soviet Union in August 1991 and the military crackdown against rebel members of the Russian parliament last October.

Yeltsin said he adopted "shock treatment" by Gaydar, once the main architect of Russia's reforms, because his theories were the most convincing among those of many economists.

Yeltsin defended the radical economic policy, saying it would have been impossible for Russia to carry out any different policy.

On hyperinflation brought about by the introduction of market reforms, Yeltsin said every nation, without exception, has passed through this sort of era.

The memoirs also give Yeltsin's account of his use of troops against conservatives holed up in the White House parliament building in Moscow last October.

Yeltsin reveals that he went through "a critical situation" because at first the military did not obey his order to attack the rebels. After declaring a state of emergency, he had tried to dispatch the military to suppress mobs attacking key city buildings, but the troops were slow to act.

By finally persuading the military to agree to attack the White House, Yeltsin managed to force the surrender of the conservatives, led by former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and former parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov.

In sharp contrast with bitter remarks about former political foes, Yeltsin praises incumbent government ministers led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

He calls Chernomyrdin a man who is reliable and has never betrayed his expectations.

Describing a visit to Japan shortly after last autumn's turmoil in Moscow, Yeltsin said he went ahead with it out of concern that suspending it might have damaged bilateral ties for a long period.

"If it had not been to Japan, I could have canceled the visit, but I thought I must go," he writes. [sentence as received]

Before last October's visit, Yeltsin had twice called off scheduled trips to Japan.

He indicates his desire to complete his four-year term of office, saying he will leave politics in accordance with the constitution.

A Japanese-language version of the book is scheduled to be published early May, publishing world sources said. The book will be titled as *Yeltsin's Memoirs—Behind the Scenes of Collapse and Confrontation.*"

Shumeyko Speaks Out Against Early Elections

LD2304174194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The Federation Council's Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko has spoken out against early presidential elections in Russia.

He wished that Boris Yeltsin would not only carry on as president until 1996 but would nominate himself to next presidential elections and be elected for yet another five-year term.

Talking to the editors-in-chief of Russia's leading media, Shumeyko said that Boris Yeltsin is the only appropriate candidate to the presidency in the country.

"A change of Russian president now would be tantamount to a catastrophe, he believes. A new head of state would start changing the entire team in the center and province. His people would start settling scores with previous teammates."

In such an event, Shumeyko feels, Russia would plunge into such a political and economic crisis that would blast any hope for further reform.

Sobchak Accused of Violating Election Decree

LD2204193194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1857 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—The State Duma, Russian parliament's lower house, has considered multiple infringements of electoral rights of citizens, which allegedly took place at the elections to St. Petersburg City Assembly, and proposed that the Russian procurator-general's office and the Central Electoral Commission look into this matter.

The legislators also proposed that Russian President Boris Yeltsin take necessary measures in regard of St. Petersburg officials on the results of the inquiry.

According to Deputy Vladimir Ryzhkov, who has submitted the draft proposal in question, the elections to St. Petersburg City Assembly were held on March 20, 1994 in accordance with an instruction prepared by St. Petersburg

Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. However, sufficient number of voters turned up only in 25 out of 50 electoral districts.

In this connection, the St. Petersburg mayor instructed to prolong the election campaign by one day and lift some of the restrictions, which earlier barred certain categories of citizens from participating in the elections. Remarkably, these restrictions had been introduced by Sobchak himself.

St. Petersburg procurator has now appealed to the court with a statement, describing Sobchak's instruction as unlawful, because the mayor exceeded his powers specified in President Yeltsin's decree "on reforming bodies of state power in St. Petersburg".

Yeltsin Abolishes Blacklist of Deputies

LD2204144394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1315 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow 22 Apr—Boris Yeltsin today cancelled his edict "On Not Extending State Guarantees of Social Protection To Certain Former People's Deputies of the Russian Federation." This was the edict issued on 6 October 1993, enabling Presidential Administration Head Sergey Filatov and a special commission to draw up a list of 151 deputies to be deprived of the payment of one year's salary based on the salary they were paid in their final month as deputy. This sum amounts to about 3-4 million rubles and is being paid to each black listed deputy from the state budget.

The issue of whether they should be allowed to keep the Moscow flats they were allocated when working for the Supreme Soviet is also still being debated. But on the eve of the signing of the treaty on civil accord, the president has decided to meet the opposition half way in order to achieve civil peace in Russia.

Chernomyrdin Reinstates Monopoly on Alcohol

LD2304194094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—In order to ensure the implementation of the Russian president's edict of 11 June 1993 No. 918, Russian Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a resolution of the Russian Government: On measures to restore the state monopoly on the production, storage, and wholesale and retail sales of alcohol products. This was announced by the press service of the Russian Government.

The resolution envisages, inter alia, a number of measures aiming to protect the economic interests of state and consumer rights. These measures will be applicable to all enterprises, irrespective of their form of ownership or of which government department they come under, including joint ventures.

The state monopoly on the production and sale of alcohol products applies to ethyl alcohol derived from any foodstuffs or non-food products, on alcohol produce, and on wine and wine products.

State inspection bodies must adopt, within one month, a procedure for issuing licences to produce, bottle, store, and sell wholesale alcohol products.

In accordance with the resolution, federal state bodies should draw up annual predictions of alcohol products' production and sale volumes with the export-import share taken into account. Instructions have also been given that a draft resolution on the procedure of establishing quotas, and proposals on payments for the issuing of licences for the production, bottling, storage, and wholesale of alcohol products be presented to the Russian Government within two months.

According to the resolution, it is prohibited to use ethyl spirit made from non-food raw material for the production of alcohol products, and the procurement and processing of raw material for the production of spirit by bartering it for spirit and other alcohol products. Besides this, it is prohibited to lease enterprises engaged in the sphere of the production, bottling, and storage of alcohol products without the issuing of the appropriate licences.

The federal executive bodies have been instructed to present within three months proposals for a single procedure of the retail sale of alcohol drinks in the territory of the Russian Federation.

Law and order bodies have been instructed to present within two months proposals on administrative and criminal liability for the violation of the state monopoly on alcohol products.

Yeltsin Supports Live Broadcast of Debates

LD2204135794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1302 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—Boris Yeltsin has backed the State Duma's decision on granting live broadcast time to the various political forces for discussion of the treaty on the attainment of civic accord in Russia. He announced this in the Kremlin today at a working conference of those participating in the agreement on the attainment of civic accord in Russia.

"Russia has an alternative to confrontation," Boris Yeltsin declared. According to him, the document on civic accord that has been prepared "is an agreement of which all the social and political forces are the authors."

The president noted that "each side will commit itself to implementing the treaty; everyone will have to give up something." "Calm in Russia is the main thing; for the sake of that, one must impose limitations on oneself and find a salutary compromise."

Boris Yeltsin is certain that "the country is badly in need of a new political culture." In his opinion, a permanently operating mechanism for accord must be devised. Analysing the draft agreement that was achieved, Boris Yeltsin noted that all political and social forces needed to prove in practice that "extremism is ineffective in politics."

Government Approves 1994 Social Policy Guidelines

PM2204130394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 1

[Irina Savvateyeva report: "The Nature of Social Policy Has Been Agreed in the Government"]

[Text] The latest session of the Russian Federation Government Presidium took place Thursday. It can be said that the first question was "routine": Reports from officials responsible for the implementation of the 9 March government decree "On the Situation of the Russian Economy and the Prospects for Its Development in 1994" were heard. In recent times, weekly accounts of work done have become a tradition at Presidium sessions.

But it was Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan who delivered the report concerning the main question: "On the Draft of the Basic Guidelines for the Social Policy of the Russian Federation Government for 1994."

Social problems the government intends to tackle in line with the "Basic Guidelines" are as follows: the fall in living standards for the bulk of the population; the dramatic intensification of social stratification; and the increase in the extent of hidden unemployment, and the threat of its escalation into overt unemployment....

The government intends to resolve these problems within the framework of preserving (and ultimately improving) correlations between the minimum working wage, pensions, grants, and benefits, and the size of minimum subsistence requirement.

As the Ministry of Labor sees it, this can be achieved primarily by "protecting the fixed incomes of the population from inflation on the basis of various forms of indexation of the pay rates and salary scales of workers in budget-financed sectors." (It is typical that the intention is to "protect" from inflation, and not to fight it.) Admittedly, there is one condition—that protective measures should be implemented "with due account of the financial possibilities of the state."

But it is proposed that "urgent assistance to those categories of the population whose per capita income is lower than the minimum subsistence requirement" be given to the regions. Along with this, the need to create economic and legal conditions providing an incentive for high labor productivity by the country's able-bodied sector is pointed out.

The Ministry of Labor also proposes to perfect the system of taxation for consumption funds and the revenues of individuals, which, according to the evaluations of certain experts, may culminate in the drastic wage control.

For the purposes of averting "wholesale, mass unemployment" it is proposed to implement a Federal Employment Promotion Program for 1994. Incidentally, this program was also examined at the Government Presidium session.

The Ministry of Labor also proposes setting in motion a mechanism for the regional regulation of employment on the basis of socially permissible levels of unemployment, which will be defined by each Federation component. When this level is reached, it is recommended that special measures, including administrative measures, be taken to restrict unemployment.

What is interesting is that the Ministry of Labor believes that the funds envisaged by the 1994 Budget for social needs will be sufficient to implement the proposed program. Provided, of course, that the financial resources of enterprises and extrabudgetary funds are also harnessed.

After a discussion, the government approved the "Basic Guidelines for Social Policy for 1994."

Communist Party Holds Conference 24 Apr

Adopts Program

LD2404170594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The All-Russia Communist Party conference held in Zvenigorod on Sunday and attended by about 300 delegates, adopted a minimum-program guided by tactical considerations.

According to it, the Communist Party will work for the formation of a government of national trust accountable to the Federal Assembly, organize a nationwide discussion of a new constitution and ensure its adoption by the actual majority of electors. It will also work for the adoption of a new election law, the restoration of the Soviet system and of the union, the denunciation of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreement, and the implementation of an independent foreign policy reflecting the tendencies in world development and Russia's national and state interests.

The Communist Party will also work for changing the economic course, for a switch-over to state regulation and for the prevention of industrial decline and inflation.

It will ensure the restoration of the Russian citizens' guaranteed social and economic rights to work, recreation, housing, free education, health care and pensions.

The Communist Party opposes the practice of discrediting the Soviet history and Lenin's theory, and also the policy of Americanization, violence, profiteering and immorality.

As before, the Communist Party will have the red banner and symbol-the hammer and sickle. The party's motto is: "Russia, Labor, Democracy, Socialism."

At the end of the conference the delegates sang the Internationale.

Moscow TV Reports

LD2304135594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Communists said today at an all-Russian conference of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation that the memorandum on civil accord in its present form is not acceptable. Party leader Gennadiy

Zyuganov made a speech at the conference and said that political measures and not declarations should be the basis for civil accord. Their purpose should be the elimination of sources of civil confrontation, which he believes are the sharp property stratification, the violation of social and economic rights of working people, the increase in crime, and the spiritual degradation of the public. The head of the party believes that a civil accord in Russia is possible but it should be agreed upon not by confrontational branches of powers but by various political forces. The communists intend to set up a wide coalition of left, centrist, and national and democratic forces in order to win the elections and to come to power legally.

Leader Addresses Party Conference

LD2304182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] According to the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Gennadiy Zyuganov, the national crisis has acquired the traits of a trench civil war interrupted by ever more violent attacks on the people. Zyuganov was addressing the party's national conference in the city of Zvenigorod near Moscow, on Saturday.

He said that owing to social degradation and the impoverishment of the population, mounting tensions could erupt in a spontaneous rebellion of marginalized elements and in an all-out war for the division of what remained of public property.

If this kind of a rebellion did take place, the party would aim to channel the masses' energy into the mainstream of class struggle for the labor masses' vital interests. The Zyuganov party rejected even the fairest of civil wars.

Zyuganov assigned strategic priority to civic peace as the main condition for coping with the crisis and transition to socialism.

Also, the Communist party of the Russian Federation intended to build a broad coalition of left-wing, centrist-oriented, patriotic and democratic forces which would be able to neutralize the party of civil war and hold it in political, economic and moral isolation.

Thirdly, the Zyuganov party aimed to lead the left-wing coalition to power by either carrying a general election or with the help of some other non-violent means.

The party's chief objective, according to Zyuganov, was the creation of an updated union of republics and the declaration of the Minsk decision on the abrogation of the treaty of union as null and void.

In Zyuganov's view, the executive branch of national power felt irresponsible because it reported to no one and the legislative branch - because it enjoyed no rights. He suggested redistribution of powers between the two branches and more work on the national checks and balances system. He called, among other things, for:

- moves to build bridges between the two houses of the Russian parliament and outline their joint authority over, primarily, relations with the executive branch;

- full operational subordination of the Ministries and government agencies to the prime-minister and more clarity on the authority and functions of the president and his men;

- holding the government accountable to the legislative branch and for the endowment of the Federal Assembly with the right to make decisions on the government's staff and structure, confirm or reject choices for prime-minister and government programs, as well as initiate, in case the government deviated from a confirmed course, moves to unseat the government;

- the exclusion of TV and radio authorities from the system of the executive branch;

- the restoration of all the echelons of the legislative branch and for holding all echelons of the executive branch accountable to the corresponding echelons of the legislative branch, as well as the reincorporation of the municipal governments into the system of state power.

Rybkin, Lapshin Dropped From Committee

LD2304180694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The plenum of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Russia held two days before the All-Russian conference dropped Mikhail Lapshin and Ivan Rybkin from the composition of the Central Executive Committee and its presidium correspondingly due to their election to the chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia and to the election to the chairman of the State Duma.

Deputy of the State Duma Anatoliy Lukyanov, former chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Aleksandr Shabanov, leader of the Moscow party organization, would be brought into the composition of the presidium. In addition, Shabanov was elected Zyuganov's deputy, press secretary of the Communist Party's Central Executive Committee Aleksandr Berdnikov reported to Interfax.

A press conference devoted to the opening of an international exhibition Milipol-94 will be staged at 13:00 of April 25 in the conference hall of the fourth pavilion of the All-Russian Exhibition Center (the former Economic Fair).

On April 25 Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev will stage a press conference on the results of the negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol and on other pressing military-political problems. The press conference is to begin at 12:00. Journalists will pass at 11:30 via entrance No 2 in the White House of the Russian Defense Ministry in Arbat (Yanyshev bystreet).

Accreditation of journalists will be organized till 18:00 of April 24 over the telephone 293-33-13.

Fails To Support Civic Accord

LD2404162094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1533 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Zvenigorod (Moscow region) TASS—The Communist Party of the Russian Federation came out against the memorandum on civic peace and accord, which is to be signed on April 28. Participants in the Communist Party's two-day national conference, which was completed on Sunday, said the party regarded itself as "component part of the union of Communist parties—CPSU aimed at gradual consolidation of Soviet Communists."

Delegates to the conference passed a total of seven documents, including theses to the Communist Party's programme "from crisis to steady development," a resolution "on patriotism and attitude towards the ruling regime," a document "the Communist Party of the Russian Federation on the way to accord for Russia," as well as a reolution on the results of the recent meeting of communist leaders of former Soviet republics.

The conference was held not exactly in the way the Communist Party's leader Gennadiy Zyuganov expected to. Although his moderate patriotic line was not subjected to open criticism, the documents adopted by the conference contradict in certain respects the course pursued by the current party leadership.

First, some amendments were introduced into the draft theses to the party's programme, which shifted the "state-patriotic" accent towards a greater "international" character of the programme. Second (which was to a considerable degree due to member of the editing commission Anatoliy Lukyanov, one of the August 1991 coup plotters), excluded from the draft document "the Communist Party of the Russian Federation on the way towards accord for Russia" was a provision saying early elections may become unnecessary if effective agreement on civic peace is reached at the negotiating table.

The resolution on the results of the recent meeting of communist leaders from former Soviet republics was passed also on Lukyanov's proposal. The meeting was held in Zvenigorod, outside Moscow, on April 22. The resolution says the Communist Party "regards itself component part of the Union of Communist Parties, but retains organizational autonomy and its own programme and charter." According to Lukyanov, this is "essential advance as compared with associate membership."

Zyuganov did not seem very enthusiastic about the prospect of the Communist Party's joining the Orthodox Union of Communist Parties headed by Oleg Shenin. Instead, he backed the idea of setting up a new association to unite communist parties of the former Soviet Union, which is to be called a "Union of Internationalists." This issue is most likely to be raised at the coordinating meeting of communist leaders of former Soviet republics this coming May.

However, all this by no means proves to any split in the party: All documents were approved nearly unanimously. But the general impression was that the Communist Party obviously lacks unity, and its leader finds it rather difficult to combine the party's new parliamentary image with feelings of grass roots members and certain leaders.

Differences on Program May Split Communist Party

MK2204102094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Yevgeniy Yanayev report: "Russian Communist Party Holds April Plenary Meeting. Zyuganovites Decide Whether They Should Support the Bolsheviks or the Communists"]

[Text] Russian communists have launched a whole slew of organizational measures that are primarily designed to resolve whether supporters of this movement will adhere to democratic rules or whether they will once again start agitation in the parliament. Yesterday, a plenary meeting of Zyuganov's Communist Party [CPRF] Central Committee opened in Zvenigorod. For a leader with a penchant for parliamentarianism this will be a test of strength on the eve of a party conference scheduled for next weekend.

The plenary meeting will focus on the communists' theses for a party program, which is to be approved by the All-Russia conference. The program itself has been purged of the slightest hints of Bolshevism. State-patriotic in tone, it recognizes the need to continue reform—of course, with a greater emphasis on social aspects—and tolerates the existence of private property. Some CPRF "mid-level" chiefs, however, do not share the state and social democratic views of their leaders.

Gennadiy Zyuganov's opponents are more attracted by the stance of the Bolsheviks from the Union of Communist Parties—the CPSU under Oleg Shenin, former Politburo member. The union hews to unblemished principles, puts class struggle and internationalism above anything else, and does not have a single seat in the "bourgeois" parliament. Matters to be discussed by the plenary meeting have taken on such an urgency in the party that observers do not rule out the possibility of a split in its ranks.

The agenda of the plenary meeting also includes the consideration of an organizational matter. The meeting is set to remove Ivan Rybkin from the Central Executive Committee under the official pretext of his having too much work in parliament. To all appearances, however, the actual reason is related to his political platform, because many party members think that the lower chamber speaker has embarked on the path of opportunism. Too often have the views of Comrade Rybkin coincided with those of the authorities, to which the CPRF is still in opposition. KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report the results of the plenary meeting and the party conference in its 26 April issue.

Zhirinovskiy Promises 'Homespun Socialism'

PM2204184094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by State Duma Deputy Vladimir Zhirinovskiy under the general heading "Homespun Socialism, Smelling of Footcloths": "On the Role of Russia as Gatherer, and the Young Wolves"]

[Text] For centuries Russia used to gather land. Opening up new land, conquering it by war. I am not a professor of history and I am not about to deliver a lecture on how Russia's lands increased and which czar was more notable than others in this matter. I am more interested in the motive for this movement. At a recent banquet, a representative of the Ukrainian "Rukh" explained it all, in my presence, in terms of the Russians' genetic aggressiveness. That is what he thinks. What I think is that the crux of the matter lies in the sense of self-preservation of a great people. For this reason, military-strategic questions have been in the forefront for every emperor. First security, life—and then all the rest. And therefore—push the borders back as far as possible, build fortresses to greet the enemy on the distant approaches. Best of all, rely on the sea, on maritime borders, and have as few land borders as possible.

Russia had no alternative. Too much territory, too much wealth. Too many people who were upset by that wealth. The Tatar-Mongol yoke, the Turks, the French, the Germans, and all the other dribs and drabs....

The red monarch Stalin was not born bloodthirsty. In the late twenties he was the perplexed leader of a vast peasant state with indigenous industry, and therefore with a poorly armed army and an administrative apparatus disintegrating under the influence of the NEP [new economic policy]. Stalin realized that Russia has no right to be weak, otherwise it will get eaten up, and that in order to have thousands of planes and tanks, you need plants, plants, and more plants.... Plus roads and mines. And all this in a matter of a few years. History did not allow decades. There were no foreign credits, the treasury was empty after the wars and troubles. What was to be done? And how could you get the peasant to part with his yard and his cow and go off to the city to push trolleys? Pay him millions? There were no millions.... So he chose the simple and terrible path for which, in human terms, he cannot be forgiven, the path of Peter the Great, Catherine, Ivan the Terrible. But the other scenario—the plan of Hitler's Ostministerium—also envisaged nothing cheerful for Russia in the event of its defeat.

We now have the same situation that Stalin had in the late twenties. Economic collapse, an empty treasury, the loss of the outlying lands. But we do not need savage repression, we are not in a hurry as Stalin was, because we do not fear foreign enemies as Stalin did. We have nuclear missiles and other kinds of all-out weapons. We are much calmer today than then. We do not now need to hold on to certain territories for military-strategic purposes, we do not need to keep tens of millions of breadwinners under arms. The army today is first and foremost sophisticated technical facilities and up-to-date infrastructure. And of course it is a pity to leave Europe and the Baltic—after all, we used to keep the very best things there (once again, by old habit, we were thinking in terms of striking at the enemy on the distant approaches). Airfields, bases, depots—all this cost billions. Because of this we got paid 200 rubles all our lives and were packed into communal apartments. But in politics, lamenting what is past or passing is a waste of time. You have to think about the present and future.

It is a total paradox that the present situation offers the unexpected prospect of a fourth and fifth push [brosok]. If in August 1991 the Communist Party—the backbone of the system—collapsed, in December 1991 the artificial construct of the state of "equal republics" fell apart, and in October 1993 the soviets were smashed, in the near future two more decisive blows must be struck while the autocratic power still has the initiative: It is necessary to "close down" the autonomous republics, oblasts, etc., and immediately to bring back guberniyas, headed by governors. With no debate about it. Quickly and firmly, under an appropriate edict, bring those sovereign presidents who are reluctant to become governors to dachas outside Moscow for a "little chat." Let them take a rest, eat plenty of sour cream, watch television, only do not let them leave the grounds of the dacha...for their own safety. When they come out in a couple of years, it will be another country. And without a single drop of blood spilled.

And the names of the guberniyas would be strictly on territorial principles—for instance, Kazan Guberniya, not the Tatar Guberniya. Because if one nationality is incorporated in the name, the other nationalities are, so to speak, guests, living from day to day.

The restoration of the guberniyas within Russia's borders as of January 1992 is the fourth blow. This blow must be struck quickly, and the Federation Council should be called the Senate or something like that, and forget about that federation as if it was just a bad dream.

After the fourth blow, the fifth. The "former" republics rejoin Russia as guberniyas—Nikolayev, Odessa, Minsk, Alma-Ata [Almaty], Bukhara guberniyas.... Once again this must be done quickly and sharply, against a background of sharp destabilization of the situation in the "near-abroad" (I cannot avoid using this idiotic term) and the use of propaganda on a massive scale, since television broadcasting is in Moscow's hands. At the moment the initiative is in Moscow's hands too, and we must not delay or waste time talking. The best memorial to those who died at the White House is not shoot-outs, but the re-creation of a great state, an empire, on the 1900 model. I know I will be accused of nationalism and extremism again. As usual. As it was two and a half years ago, when I ran in the presidential election with the slogan "I will defend Russians and the small peoples." At that time they called me a chauvinist. But now even Kozyrev is defending (only verbally, as yet) the Russians in the Baltic region. Where now are the Democratic Russia supporters with their panhuman values? Where now is the Democratic Russia appeal to the regions to "take as much sovereignty as you can carry"? It is embarrassing even to mention it now. And that inappropriate conversion, which I always criticized. And the cleansing of Moscow and other Russian cities of criminal southerners? Whose idea, in a watered-down form, has Mayor Luzhkov begun to implement? Gleb Yakunin's, Lev Ponomarev's? Galina Starovoytova's—the deputy from Armenia? Who was the first in the entire country to start talking about guberniyas and the pernicious nature of the Sakharov draft constitution, whereby dozens of appanage principalities would appear in Russia?

At that time the Democratic Russia supporters idolized Sakharov, now they keep quiet. They have realized that Sakharov's ideas are the way to wall-to-wall local wars. And people will remind me about the vodka, too. I was not only talking about cheap vodka, but about vodka and tobacco as exclusively state revenue. No imports of tobacco or alcohol, production only at state plants under state medical control, for sale exclusively at state stores and at firm (I emphasize, firm) prices. Low prices, so as to stop the manufacture of hooch. Only a fool or a CIA agent could give away the state's revenue from alcohol and cigarettes to foreigners who supply all kinds of muck in pretty bottles and packs. And then that fool or agent comes crying to us that there is no money for doctors' wages, for long-term investments, for road building. True, there is not. You yourself gave that revenue away. Tobacco, vodka, sugar, and wool should be managed exclusively by the state. It is the state's money, treasury money. Plus the railroads. They are also sacred, the state's. That is what I was talking about. Yet they made me into the "great friend of alcoholics" (although alcoholics are part of our society too).

Shall we in any case define what kind of society we are creating? Will there be rich people in that society? Certainly. Will we have a redistribution every five years, take various things away from people? No. We are not a proletarian party. Will we recognize private initiative and private ownership? Yes, of course. Will we let pensioners or children with no parents die of starvation? Never. A grant, a roof over their head, a medical examination, free bread and free milk should be found for the most unfortunate. That is socialism. But we will have our own brand of socialism, not Swedish and not Belgian, but our own, national, homespun, hempen socialism, laced with communal, corporative psychology and smelling of footcloths. With a big role for the state and civil servants. Gaydar wants to build a small—compact, as he puts it—state. How can that be? We have to build roads, feed the North, maintain a big army and security, develop new technologies and fundamental science. Who will provide the money for this? The young wolves. Those who, when the Law on Cooperatives came out, rolled up their pants and ran off after money and the chance to establish themselves. Those who took their computers everywhere, and then "made their way up" on nonferrous metals and foreign junk. I am like them myself. At the dawn of perestroyka I started my own thing—in politics, whereas they did it in business. I traveled that path from the bottom—from little groups huddled in dubious apartments, to victory in the parliamentary elections in Russia. They went from a small cooperative or currency speculation to reputable firms. I will help these boys. I will not stifle them with taxes. I will allow them to have weapons to ward off the gangsters. I will make the state protect them, and, most important, I will give them serious business—not spirits or vodka or chocolate, but the exploitation of large mineral deposits and the construction of large plants. Chubays' distribution of property to his own will be stopped. It will all be honest and simple. If you have the money, go buy a plant or a hotel, if you don't have the money, save up. And everything openly, by auction. And every day a report showing how much money the budget has received from privatization. Can you imagine what sums the sale of facilities like the VDNKh [Exhibition of National Economic Achievements] or the Kosmos Hotel in Moscow could yield? Trillions. Where are those trillions? In Chubays' dacha?

It is time military industry was privatized. And the young wolves given a share. And then they will understand why we need a new aircraft carrier or combat helicopter. And they will stop worrying about customs dues on "Rasputin" vodka. Foreign policy must also serve the young wolves. Take the case of Georgia. What we should have done was to take away Abkhazia (at the Abkhaz' request, naturally, and under a treaty with Georgia itself, which will agree to anything just now) and settle Russian entrepreneurs, officers, and those Vorkuta miners on the coast, give them each a hectare of land, and let them build houses, swim in the sea, and eat oranges. The Abkhaz would have been very pleased. They would know: Since there are Russians here, the people from Tbilisi will not poke their noses in (or if they do, we will show them). Yet instead of these heavenly places, we are cramming our boys into godforsaken corners of Russia.

In general, the bureaucratic, red-tape mechanism of access to resources (from the leasing of nonresidential premises to the exploitation of natural reserves) must be smashed. Only open auctions, dealing not with individual facilities, but everything—real estate in cities, enterprises' fixed assets, monetary and natural resources. Central Bank credits—also by auction. No special-purpose credits. If all this is done, lease payments will immediately become many times cheaper and the interest rate on credits will fall. If the Central Bank rate falls to 30-40 percent, there will be long-term investments, which we need. The only downside is that the bureaucrats will lose their bribes. Well, they can go to hell.

The structural policy must consist of identifying areas of production that are competitive on the world market (petrochemicals, the gas industry, the aerospace sector, weapons, etc.) and investing sufficient resources there. In these "special zones" there should be a concessionary tax regime. Elsewhere we will tighten up, but here we will give as much as necessary. The government must compile a list of 200-300 priority facilities for investment on the basis of existing production units. And the money must be given not directly, but through stable commercial banks and structures which can subsequently be held accountable for the money.

The problem of overcoming the production recession is a problem of the population's effective demand. The rich alone will not create demand for Russian industry—they prefer imports. But the collapse of the consumer market could be halted by creating a system of consumer credit, indexation of the population's Savings Bank investments, and special-purpose bonds. During the election campaign, when I proposed compensation for losses resulting from price liberalization and the indexation of savings, all the "democratic" newspapers started laying into me, accusing me of wild schemes and demagoguery. But why, I ask you, is it not possible to index-link savings by issuing people with bonds—state loan certificates with a term of 5-10 years (at 20-30 percent annual interest)—and creating a system of depositing these bonds in commercial banks in order to obtain consumer credit. That would not lead to additional monetary emission, it would only change the structure of existing credit investments. But, I will be frank, the wisest economic plans will collapse when there is no elementary order, when instead of hard work people can steal with impunity, when there is no authority, when bribery controls everything. Therefore I will start from scratch. I will ask 20-year-old Akhmet, who is driving around Moscow in a Mercedes 600, what he actually does day after day. I will soon fire the militiaman who, peering at a deputy's card, states baldly: "The Duma is not my boss." And when billions are stolen by means of banking manipulations, I will simply have people shot. Civil servants must get on with their work for the set time—from nine to six. Janitors must sweep the streets. The trains must run on time. Doorway lamps must work. It is elementary. If it does not happen, someone will answer to me for it with his head. Here I will act not like an economic theorist, but like a pragmatic Russian.

And as a pragmatic Russian, I would not allow the newspapers, while the president is alive, seriously to discuss possible ways of removing him and to "select" his replacements. Those newspapers would quickly be discovered to have unpaid telephone bills amounting to a couple of million dollars, and their telephones would be cut off for nonpayment. And then there would be a fine of 100 million rubles for using the kettles. And maybe as a result people would realize that it is unseemly, while daddy is present, to share out his legacy.

By the way, about daddy. His friends and colleagues are already quietly discounting him. Hints to the same effect are coming from the west, he has played his part, they say, look for a new one. They even sent the Government Inspector—grandpa Nixon. I will tell you, as a pragmatic Russian—they are writing Yeltsin off too soon. Boris Nikolayevich is an absolutely mystical figure. They have buried him—politically and physically—dozens of times. And dozens of times he has risen from the dead. He did not drown in the river on Nikolina Gora, or get smashed up in a plane, or die in an air crash. He won two putsches and outwitted and outplayed Gorbachev. Look what a party he smashed! He is just like a hero from a Russian folk tale. Did any of those who were present at the Central Committee plenum in 1987 and who wanted Yeltsin, ever think that they were looking at a future president? Yeltsin conducts politics not by Friedman's schemes, but by intuition. And that is why you cannot stop him by logic. Like me. We are both mystics. By the laws of logic, I also could not have won the parliamentary elections or come third in 1991. Therefore, among the candidates for the new presidency, Yeltsin is my most threatening rival. The others are village teachers and little boys from the capital's special schools.

If Yeltsin, to whom it fell to make the first three pushes, also makes the fourth and the fifth, his chances will increase immeasurably. He will become the czar-father. Let me remind you: The fourth push is the revival of guberniyas within Russia's present borders. The fifth is the restoration of Russia within the USSR's borders on the guberniya principle, without republics as intermediaries. And then it is not far to the sixth push—to the south, to the Indian Ocean. But that one is my chance, my mission.

Zhirinovskiy To Present Economic Recovery Plan

LD2204173694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is planning to hand the party's own plan of economic recovery to the Russian president as Yeltsin and parliamentary leaders meet on Friday. It provides for a one party government led by LDP as the party winning the December election. If not, six of the incumbent ministers(Chubays, Shokhin, Shakhray, Kozyrev, Grachev and Yerin) must be replaced by LDP representatives, the paper says. The party also wants its own candidate to be elected as speaker of the lower house offering Yeltsin to take an indefinite leave to shed responsibility in the event of tension.

LDP also calls for a new administrative-territorial division of the country by abolishing national autonomies and restoring Russia to the former Soviet Union's borders under the 1975 Helsinki Accord on inviolability of frontiers. It opposes the reduction of the armed forces and demands that the military-industrial complex be restored in full and arms exports expanded.

LDP demands a sharp reversal of Russia's foreign policy by lifting the blockade of Yugoslavia, Iraq and Libya and sending Russian troops to be withdrawn from Germany to the Balkans. "The lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia can help saturate the Russian market with cheap clothing, footwear and foodstuffs", the authors of the plan believe. LDP is strongly opposed to any agreements with NATO or joint military exercises on Russian territory.

The party offers an integrated program to combat crime to root out all criminal rings within three months. It also calls for a crucial change of domestic propaganda by removing anti-Russian ideologists and campaigners, foreign preachers, advertising and erotics from the mass media.

"Russia is in deep crisis. The Russians are perishing while your entourage is deceiving you. Lying ahead is a powerful social upheaval followed by chaos and a total ungovernability of the country. Mr President! LDP calls on you to accept its program in the name of Russia's salvation", says the appeal.

National Salvation Front Urges Early Elections

LD2404134794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The National Salvation Front [NSF] insists on early presidential elections, NSF leader Ilya Konstantinov told his organization's National Council in Moscow on Sunday.

He said that the National Salvation Front would sign the Memorandum on Civic Accord only if this demand was fulfilled.

Ilya Konstantinov, Gennadiy Sayenko, Mikhail Astafyev and Mikhail Titov criticized the Civic Accord pact and announced that they would not sign it, although they would take part in its discussion on April 26.

Konstantinov also said that the NSF's main task now was to find and support a candidate representing the opposition.

Member of the NSF's Political Council Sazhi Umalatova stated that former Soviet prime minister Nikolay Ryzhkov would suit all opposition forces.

Members of the NSF's National Council sharply criticized the government and president.

Calls for Yeltsin's Resignation

LD2404171094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The National Council of the National Salvation Front [NSF] adopted a resolution on Sunday which says that Boris Yeltsin's resignation is the compulsory condition for signing the Civic Accord agreement.

The National Council members also expressed protest against plans to hold Russian-American manoeuvres in the Orenburg Region (the Urals) and urged all patriots to join this protest.

Ilya Konstantinov was elected chairman of the NSF's Executive Committee.

Four more co-chairmen were elected in addition to the 17 already working: Sazhiy Umalatova, Valeriy Skurlatov, Mikhail Titov and Valeriy Smirnov.

Leader Delivers 'Progress Report'

LD2404181494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS—The hardline National Salvation Front does not intend to sign the memorandum on civic peace and accord, according to speakers at today's report-back election session of the Front's national council. Participants in the session demanded that President Boris Yeltsin step down, early presidential election be urgently held and the country's current political and economic course be changed.

The progress report, which was delivered by the Front's leader Ilya Konstantinov, said "the National Salvation Front lost its mainstay following last October's collapse of soviets which were the backbone of opposition forces".

According to Konstantinov, "unless steps are taken to put an end to the amorphous coalition of various political forces, which is exactly what the National Salvation Front is now, the movement will be doomed to leave Russia's political arena". He believes that opposition can be rallied into one force only if it nominated a single candidate for the Russian presidency. The Front leader declared struggle for early presidential election the main goal of the movement.

The following debates over the report revealed that the National Salvation Front had no allies among Russia's major political forces. Nor does it have enough funds to carry out propaganda and organizational work or leaders enjoying nationwide support.

Konstantinov declined to take part in a meeting with presidential aide Georgiy Satarov scheduled for April 26. The session elected a group of three activists to represent the front at the meeting.

The Front's council addressed the Federation of Russia's Independent Trade-Unions, calling "for joint actions to protect the social and economic interests of the population".

Thousands Join Kazannik's People's Conscience Party

LD2404085394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0807 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk April 24 TASS—Several thousand people have joined the People's Conscience Party which Alexey Kazannik, former prosecutor-general of Russia, is founding upon his returning here.

Kazannik is again a profesor at the law department of Omsk University. He devotes all his spare time to the elaboration of programmatic documents and organisational structure of the new party.

More than 5,000 people have joined the party within three days in Yekaterinburg, the hometown of President Boris Yeltsin, Kazannik told ITAR-TASS. The most active support in forming the party is being given by scientists and faculty members of Novosibirsk and Omsk institutions of higher learning, the Academgorodok (science city) and other cities in Siberia, the Urals and the Far East, by entrepreneurs and the work collectives of industrial enterprises.

Kazannik said he was prompted to found a party of his own by "the immorality and inefficiency of the present authorities at all levels and by the impossibility to combine efforts with all the already existing parties and movements for moral considerations".

Left-Wing Russia Party Formed

LD2304201894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] A new public organization has been established in Russia today, the Left-Wing Russia Party [Levaya Rossiya Partiya]. Steering Committee Chairman Vladimir (Burlyugov) said the party's main objectives were the establishment of a single multi-ethnic state, the renaissance of patriotism, and an international society of all working people. He described the actions that led to the collapse of the USSR as anti-constitutional. According to the organizers, the new party unites 1,000 members; there were 27 delegates at the congress.

Political Parties Bills Differ on State Role

MK2304095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Kuznets report in the "Law" column: "Parties Should Compete With Each Other. The State Will Maintain Only the Winners"—last paragraph is Gleb Cherkasov report]

[Text] The draft law on political parties worked out by the Duma's Social Organizations Committee was yesterday presented to journalists. The main novelty compared to the analogous law of the Soviet period, according to the draft authors, is that political parties have been separated from the general mass of public organizations. As of now, to register, a party should have a membership of 5,000 and regional branches with more than 10 members in more than half the Russian Federation components. The draft also provides for a complicated system of party reregistration after each federal elections. Only those parties that have surmounted the 5-percent barrier will have their registration automatically extended. The others must reregister for next election campaigns.

The draft, furthermore, allows registration of regional parties that are expected to be barred from contesting federal-wide elections. Which, by the authors' admission, clearly infringes their interests because the "will for power" is the main objective of all parties.

In full accord with this thesis, the draft builds a party state financing system. Funds will be made available only by election committees and only for purposes of conducting election battles. Funds will also be provided to the factions of those parties which have emerged victorious from these battles.

Parties are forbidden to receive donations from foreign citizens or organizations as well as from the state (with the above exception).

As has become known, a group of deputies has prepared an alternative draft law on political parties. According to one of the "alternative" authors, Vitaliy Savitskiy, who is a member of the Duma's Public Associations and Religious Organizations Committee, one of the main distinctions of the second draft is the predominant role of the state. Under the alternative draft, the main financing for public organizations is provided by the state while the volume of monetary infusions depends on how successful a particular party has been in the elections. According to Mr. Savitskiy, such a mechanism can contribute to the gradual evolution of large political organizations.

Split Threatens Existence of 'Democratic Russia'

MK2304090094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Yelena Cherkasova report under the "Party Organizational Development" rubric: "Split Likely in 'Democratic Russia.' Ponomarev and Yakunin Hate To 'Lose Face'"]

[Text] The "Democratic Russia" movement conference for hearing reports and preparing for elections was held in Moscow on 20 and 21 April. A split developed from the very first day both among the conference delegates and among the "Children of Russia" Coordination Council. The apple of discord was the "Children of Russia" movement's attitude toward the "Russia's Choice" party being created by Yegor Gaydar. The resolution on providing organizational support for "Russia's Choice" obtained 276 votes while 34 delegates were against and 13 abstained. A situation of uncertainty took shape. In the wake of Ilya Zaslavskiy's address saying that only a new reformers party with a rigid structure and individual membership can countervail the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, "Democratic Russia" cochairman Lev Ponomarev stated that in such a case the "Democratic Russia" movement was going to forfeit its political independence and "face." As for Gleb Yakunin, he discerned in Ilya Zaslavskiy's statement and in the passed resolution on "Russia's Choice" the beginning of the end of the Moscow-based "Democratic Russia."

The discussion of organizational questions reconciled everybody for a time, however, and the delegates decided to make no amendments in the "Democratic Russia" rules for the time being. The conference did pass one amendment, though. The "Democratic Russia" rules say that the Coordination Council cannot be composed of more than 20 percent of representatives of one party, a collective participant, or any other component part. But the delegates, or more correctly, supporters of the creation of Gaydar's "Russia's Choice," decided that it can, following which Gleb Ponomarev, Gleb Yakunin, and their supporters walked out.

Zorkin Proposes Urgent Measures to Overcome Crisis

LD2204175794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] One of the initiators of the Accord for Russia Movement, member of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin, has proposed urgent measures for Russia to overcome the crisis. Valeriy Zorkin made the statement Friday in an interview with Interfax.

After other leaders of the Movement discuss the proposals they may be part of the Movement's program.

Zorkin sees as the main task the restoration of the power's efficiency. With this aim in view he proposed to create a state council out of representatives of influential political forces. Is it worth to put cardinal transformations to the will on one person even if he is elected by the people because he has no team of professionals enjoying the people's confidence? asks the judge. A state council could coordinate important decisions taken by the executive power. This body could bear responsibility before the people for the measures taken, believes Zorkin.

The draft document outlines the main principles for the country's pulling out of the economic crisis which are based on the proposals by Sergei Glazyev and other economists. Zorkin is sure that it is necessary to regulate prices for the time being on key price-forming goods, to effect state control over prices for electricity, oil, communal services, bread, milk, butter and sugar. There is need to reform the taxation system to lower the tax burden for current incomes.

Also important is to stop the crime tide, said Zorkin. He proposed to create an anti-mafia structure, a standing body of cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of power to combat power abuse and organized crime, including in the sphere of state government.

It would be worthwhile to adopt for three-five years amendments to the Criminal Code toughening punishment for crimes against individuals, said the judge.

He believes that army units should operate in areas with the unfavorable criminal situation. Zorkin proposed to introduce amendments into the Law on the State of Emergency which would permit impose a special rule in such areas.

Russia's Choice Appeals for May Day Measures

LD2204164094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Russia's Choice faction in the State Duma today made public a statement containing an appeal to the bodies of executive power to ensure citizens' safety and constitutional order in Moscow. As is mentioned in the document, this has been prompted by the fact that, as the traditional spring celebrations approach, printed matter inciting people to violence is being distributed in factories and organizations.

'White' Movement Urges Expansion of Current National Borders

MK2204130894 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 2

[Mikhail Lantsman report under the "The Whites" rubric: "People's Workers' Union Wants To Erect an 'Ideological Core' in Russia. For Starters, it Proposes That Market Be Crossed With Collectivism"]

[Text] The ideological and moral principles of the White movement are still topical in present-day Russia, leaders of the People's Workers' Union of Russian Solidarists [NTS] claim. Despite the collapse of communism and the Soviet power, the oldest anti-Soviet organization does not consider its historic mission played out. At a press conference held at the Revolution Museum yesterday, NTS leaders unveiled their program for erecting Russia's "new ideological core."

The victory of the Reds in the four-year Civil War undoubtedly amounted to a national catastrophe that has brought about the corruption of morals and the social enslavement of Russian citizens, Dmitriy Khanov, NTS activist, said. Having long predicted an end to the Soviet system, the solidarists did not expect that the revival would take so long to complete. The ideology to heal the nation and create a new Russian community should be a theory of solidarism synthesizing a liberal market economy, collective traditions, and statehood, the NTS believes.

An integral part of the overall national revival are geopolitical efforts to bring the nation to a healthy state. The RSFSR's administrative borders inherited from Bolshevism cannot be seen as enduring boundaries of the Russian state, the chairman of the NTS executive bureau thinks. Nonetheless, the future merger of historical Russian lands, NTS leaders believe, will proceed peacefully through the natural attraction of a number of republics to each other. Meanwhile, the issue of Crimea, where a referendum has already been held, should be a subject of international talks. In the solidarists' view, the Russian leadership should courageously and openly announce its historical responsibility for the future of the Crimean peninsula. The Russian leadership, however, can acquire the moral right to solve territorial disputes only after it gets rid of the Soviet heritage.

The NTS, which has not been encumbered with a totalitarian heritage, is already preparing the ground for future talks. "The NTS congratulates you on the results of the referendum," said a leaflet distributed by solidarists in Sevastopol. "Crimea was the last corner of Russian land that was defended from the Bolsheviks by Vrangel's White Army. Your will, your craving for Russia is a bone in the throat of [Ukrainian] independence-seekers."

Chernomyrdin Decree on Nizhniy Farm Reform

PM2204145594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 324 "On the Practice of Agrarian Transformations in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast," dated 15 April 1994, Moscow, and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin]

[Text] With a view to improving the organizational and economic mechanism by which new forms of enterprise in the agro-industrial complex function, optimizing production structures in market economy conditions, and creating the necessary normative and legal basis the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The land privatization program and agricultural enterprise reorganization program which has been elaborated and which is being implemented in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, and which based on the following principles, is approved:

the issue of a land ownership certificate and a property share certificate to people entitled to receive them in accordance with existing Russian Federation legislation;

the granting to owners of land plots and property shares of the opportunity to make deals involving them based on contracts being concluded and other methods of disposing of ownership provided for by law;

implementation of the reorganization of agricultural enterprises on the basis of the voluntary expression of will of owners of land plots and property shares;

the distribution of land and property of agricultural enterprises being reorganized by holding closed intrafarm auctions.

Russian Federation agricultural enterprises are instructed to study and implement this reform program.

Russian Federation components' organs of executive authority are to assist the implementation of the said practice of privatizing land and reorganizing agricultural enterprises.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Administration of State Property, the Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, and other interested ministries and departments are to take account of the practical experience of land privatization and agricultural enterprise reorganization in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast and other Russian Federation regions when preparing draft acts of land and agrarian legislation.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Administration of State Property, and the Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management, jointly with Nizhniy Novgorod administration, are to prepare and submit to the Russian Federation Government within two months a statute on the reform of agricultural enterprises, taking account of the practice of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, which is to provide for, in particular:

the rights and duties of owners of land plots and property shares which are used during intrafarm reform;

model contracts for the disposal of land plots and property shares;

specimen constituent documents regarding the basic forms of agricultural enterprises being set up in the reform process;

rules for holding intrafarm auctions to distribute land and property.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance is to provide out of other expenditure items in the 1994 federal budget for the allocation of 2 billion rubles to Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast to further improve the organizational and legal forms and methods of reorganizing agricultural enterprises, to implement the said forms in the oblast's farms wishing to carry out a reorganization, to create, equip, and finance a network of consultation centers on reformed farms, and to convey experience to leaders and specialists of the agricultural complex of Russian Federation components.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food:

is to consider, jointly with Nizhniy Novgorod administration, the question of creating a Federal Agro-industrial Enterprise Training Center based on Nizhniy Novgorod's regional institute for retraining and enhancing the skills of leading agro-industrial complex cadres and specialists;

is to approve a Statute on a Federal Agro-industrial Enterprise Training Center within two months.

5. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation State Tax Service, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food are to prepare proposals within two months on amending legislation as regards:

granting tax privileges to agricultural, service, and processing enterprises and to organizations formed on the basis of collective and state farms and other agricultural enterprises reorganized in accordance with this program;

exempting owners of land plots and property shares from paying state duties, taxes, and other dues when making deals involving land plots and property shares in the process of intrafarm reorganization.

6. Organs of the Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management are obliged to ensure that land ownership certificates are issued to land plot owners before 1 August 1994.

7. A.Kh. Zaveryukha, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, and A.B. Chubays, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, are responsible for monitoring the implementation of this decree.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

---

Doubts About Nizhniy Reform 'Model'

PM2204102594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 2

[Yelena Yakovleva report: "Nizhniy Novgorod Model of Land Reform Becomes All-Russia Model"]

[Text] It has become known that Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin has signed documents approving the Nizhniy Novgorod version of land reform as the model for Russia.

The Nizhniy Novgorod governor, who was counting on nothing less than a "model for Russia," is to be congratulated. The scientific "curators" from the IMF are also to be congratulated—this is a rare successful project in Russia. (An American expert told me that he had neglected some more important work just so that he would be able to tell his son: "I was involved in privatization in Russia!") Our own "practical workers and theoreticians" should not be forgotten either—kolkhoz chairmen and scientists from the Agrarian Institute who had started this work earlier in Rostov and Samara Oblasts but were unable to present it to the public as [Governor] Nemtsov has done with the Americans.

The Nizhniy Novgorod option may be welcome to the people and the government because it is mild and does not presuppose "giving anybody a hard time"; it is a model for the natural growth of private farms from collective farms that is calculated, as Allan Bigman, one of the American leaders of the project, said, to take 20 years. Essentially this is a mechanism which regularly "opens doors" to those who want to leave kolkhozes and go into private farming, removes political resistance (the displeasure of the kolkhoz chairman), and overcomes economic resistance (the impossibility of building up a decent-sized plot of land and finding the money to cultivate it).

It is curious that people with a variety of views like the Nizhniy Novgorod option—for instance the famous journalist Yuriy Chernichenko and the famous economist Aleksey Yemelyanov, who recently made opposite assessments of the same events. Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party and the "chairman body" that he personifies do not like it, but presumably Chernomyrdin's signature will remove the dissatisfaction.

A fly in the ointment: The Nizhniy Novgorod model can easily be profaned. There is a natural law in Russia that the most radical reformist decision can be rehashed by the people implementing it until it reaches its exact antithesis. What could be more "dangerous" than a law giving peasants plots of land as their own property? Yet one or two extra features in the decrees, one or two imperfections in the Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management's solemn promises to do everything tomorrow—and suddenly all the plots of land that have apparently been turned into private property can serve to secure the kolkhoz chairman against any encroachments on his farm. He says: On my farm the people own everything. Yet the majority of peasants do not even suspect that they have ownership rights.

The Nizhniy Novgorod model presupposes complex calculations, not always comprehensible to ordinary people, and the honesty of these calculations and land and property auctions can be ensured either by a sincere desire on the part of the kolkhoz chairman to seriously reform, or by careful surveillance by American experts. There are not that many reformer-chairmen, and there will not be enough Americans to go around all the Russian kolkhozes.

Status of 'Version No. 1' Investigation

MK2204115094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 16/4, 22-28 Apr 94 (Signed to press 21 Apr) p 3

[Unattributed OBSHCHAYA GAZETA report under the "The Press" rubric: "Knowledgeable People Conduct Investigation on 'Version No. 1'"]

[Text] The General Prosecutor's Office is continuing its investigation into the libel case, filed on 28 March, against officials to whom the author of "Version No. 1" ascribed the preparation of an anti-Yeltsin conspiracy.

The circle of people asked for questioning as witnesses keeps widening. The office of Aleksandr Gorbunov, investigator of especially important cases under the Russian Federation general prosecutor, has already been visited by both the OBSHCHAYA GAZETA founder and staffers of its politics desk. Aleksandr Yakovlev and Oleg Poptsov are expected to testify.

Mr. Gorbunov has stressed specially that the instituted case has nothing to do with OBSHCHAYA GAZETA. If one is to judge from his questions, the investigation's attention is centered not so much on the authors of the notorious document (who obviously have been identified) as on the need to "pinpoint" the channels along which it was circulated, and the persons interested in that. If this is how it really is, the publication in OBSHCHAYA GAZETA, too, pursued the same goal.

As is known to the editorial office, Gleb Pavlovskiy, the "legal" author of the analytical note, has stated that he will decline to testify, believing the prosecutor's office actions unlawful. His arguments are like this: The text of the "Version" speaks about an intention to remove the president from power, not by a forcible and unlawful way but by legal means. Hence the prosecutor's office has no grounds for instituting a libel case that entails charges of committing an especially dangerous crime against the State (Article 130, Part 3, Russian Federation Criminal Code). Pavlovskiy maintains that he and his colleagues are being subjected to groundless pressure primarily from the Federal Counterintelligence Service. It is this pressure, as well as direct threats, according to Pavlovskiy, that force him and his colleague, Simon Kordonskiy, co-director of the "The 20th Century and Peace" analytical center, whom KURANTY recently named (together with Andrey Makarov, Mikhail Lukin, and Pavlovskiy himself) as a co-author of the "Version," to hide from the authorities. In Kordonskiy's opinion, the scandal around the publication has generally been used by the Federal Counterintelligence Service to convince the president of its loyalty, to become stronger, and to feel around for ways to revive political police in Russia.

Shakhray Calls for Talks With Chechen President

LD2204193694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray says he has invited Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev for immediate talks but without "any mediators or bad advisers". In an interview with Interfax on Friday, he spoke of being vested with appropriate powers to hold such talks and having a constructive position to offer.

Shakhray denied any knowledge of Moscow's secret plans to throw weight behind the Chechen opposition as Dudayev said in a recent statement. "In keeping with a Duma resolution and the president's instructions to the government, we will negotiate with the Chechen government and mainstream political groups there", he said.

Shakhray, who will lead a Russian delegation in talks with Grozny, is to be vested with powers to try to clear the ground for a meeting between Presidents Yeltsin and Dudayev, government sources in Moscow believe. They also said that Shakhray had submitted a draft agreement for benefits to be paid in stages to old age pensioners in Chechnya.

"Instead of mutual accusations spread through the media, we must hold face-to-face talks to try to resolve the conflict", Shakhray said.

Economic Issues

Finance Ministry on Foreign Investment Principles

LD2204184694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] On Friday Russian Finance Ministry presented explanations regarding the principles of foreign investment taxation. On April 19 the American Trade-Industrial Chamber made up of about 180 companies functioning in Russia recommended to its members to suspend allocation of credits to Russian legal entities due to an incorrect interpretation of the country's legislation on the part of several tax bodies of the Russian Federation.

The explanation of the Russian Finance Ministry says that in accordance with Russian tax law value added tax and a special tax are imposed on funds received from other enterprises and organizations. Exceptions are made for funds transferred to authorized funds of enterprises by their sponsors and funds intended for joint activity. VAT and special tax are not imposed on operations connected with issuance and transfer of loans and operations related to the circulation of securities (shares, bonds, certificates, promissory notes, and others.)

Foreign investments channelled to Russia for the creation of joint ventures and payment for securities of Russian enterprises procured by foreign individuals and legal entities are not liable for VAT or the special tax, indicates the Finance Ministry. Loans and credits granted by foreign banks and credit offices are also exempt. In addition, taxes are not imposed on funds which foreign states grant to enterprises and organizations free of charge in the form of a grant for specific projects.

The Finance Ministry also drew attention to the presidential decree dated December 22, 1993 "On Changes in Taxation and in Mutual Relations between Budgets of Different Levels." According to this document, VAT and special tax are not imposed on goods and technical equipment imported to Russia in the framework of free technical aid which foreign states render in accordance with inter-governmental agreements.

1990 State Loans To Be Redeemed by 1 Jun 1995

PM2504084594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "State To Redeem 1990 Loans"]

[Text] The Russian Government intends to redeem the state's debt to holders of 1990 interest-free targeted state loans between 15 June 1994 and 1 June 1995. According to the government decree, the Finance Ministry is being instructed to redeem the population's interest-free targeted bonds for consumer goods (excluding cars) "at current consumer prices" and for cars "on the basis of 60 percent of the price." In addition, the Russian Federation Finance Ministry will redeem targeted checks for the acquisition of cars issued prior to 2 January 1992 with right of purchase in 1992 and "Harvest-90" checks "at the rate of 70 times the face value of the check with the transfer of funds into bank accounts."

Government To Speed Up Agricultural Reform

LD2404163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] This year, the Russian government is planning to accelerate agricultural reform and develop a procedure of agricultural enterprises' bankruptcy, Russia's Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha told Interfax.

He said that in the first quarter of 1994, agricultural production decreased by 13 percent and that no signs of stabilization were being felt. More than 30 percent of collective and state farms, and joint-stock societies do not earn enough to pay wages to the workers, said Zaveryukha.

He noted, however, that the government's attempts to privatize loss-making collective farms according to the Nizhnyy Novgorod or Moscow models, were resisted.

He confirmed the government's determination to observe the voluntary principle of privatizing large state-run and collective farms, and announced that the president and the prime minister had categorically rejected the proposal by head of the president's analytical center Petr Filippov on compulsory privatization of state and collective farms.

Police Increase Efforts To Find Tax Dodgers

LD2304135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—Russian tax police reported 32,000 violations of tax legislation in 1993 and over 10,000 in the first quarter of 1994.

The figures were cited at a session of the Federation Council, upper house of the parliament, on Saturday.

Members of the House Budget Committee stressed that "tax privileges have failed to act as a stimulant for industry and in many cases have been used for dodging taxes."

In 1993 tax inspectors discovered over 1,000 unregistered legal entities which did not pay any taxes. They instituted criminal proceedings on more than 600 cases and about 200 in the first three months of 1994. They also stressed that more and more often tax inspectors become objects of assaults.

Tax revenues could increase the federal budget by billions of roubles, tax police officials said. Last year inspections and raids helped recover additional 800 billion roubles and over 600 billion in the first quarter of 1994.

Officials complained that the tax system is in "complete chaos." Non-payment of income tax and value added tax accounts for the bulk of all tax violations. Enterprises often report bigger costs of their products than they actually are in order to avoid paying taxes.

Tax police experts believe only five major taxes should be left in Russia—real estate tax, income tax for individuals and businesses, value added tax and excise tax. They recommended replacing profit tax with company income tax.

Decree on Issuing, Servicing 1994 Treasury Bills

PM2504092194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 First Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 321 signed by Premier V. Chernomyrdin and dated 14 April 1994: "On the Issue of Russian Federation Ministry of Finance 1994 Treasury Bills"; decree accompanied by "Basic Conditions for the Issue and Servicing of 1994 Treasury Bills"]

[Text] In accordance with Article 3 Paragraph 2 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation's State Domestic Debt," the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The appended basic conditions for the issue of 1994 treasury bills drawn up by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance shall be approved.

As of April 1994 the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance shall issue treasury bills in accordance with the basic conditions for the 1994 treasury bill issue.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance shall be granted the right to determine the size and scheduling of the treasury bill issue, on the basis of a ceiling for the issue of 1.1 trillion rubles [R].

3. With a view to maintaining liquidity in the treasury bill market, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, shall organize a secondary market [vtorichnoye obrashcheniye] for them.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

[Dated] Moscow, 14 April 1994

No. 321

Basic Conditions for the Issue and Servicing of 1994 Treasury Bills

1. The 1994 treasury bills shall be issued by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance.

2. The 1994 treasury bills shall be issued in series whose sizes and issue dates shall be set by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance by agreement with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

3. Each series of 1994 treasury bills shall bear a single compilation (issue) and repayment (redemption) date. The 1994 treasury bills shall have a life of one year from their date of issue.

4. The 1994 treasury bills shall be transferred for storage to the Central Bank of the Russian Federation without being issued personally to holders.

5. The face value of each 1994 treasury bill shall be R14 million.

6. The amount of federal budget debt which a single treasury bill shall cover shall be R10 million.

7. Only corporate bodies considered resident under Russian Federation legislation may hold 1994 treasury bills.

8. The Central Bank of the Russian Federation shall act as the general agent for the servicing of 1994 treasury bills. The procedure for the placement, circulation, and redemption of 1994 treasury bills shall be defined by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

9. Registration of sales and purchases of 1994 treasury bills shall be carried out by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

10. Operations to redeem 1994 treasury bills shall be carried out by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation on the instructions of the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance by executing a noncash money transfer to the bill-holders' bank accounts on redemption day. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance is obliged to transfer to the Central Bank of the Russian Federation the funds required for the full redemption of the next series of 1994 treasury bills before the date for redemption falls due.

Shokhin on Prospects for New IMF Credit

LD2304142094 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] A decision by the IMF to grant Russia a regular credit of $1.5 billion shows that the world economic and financial community supports our government's line of reforms, Russian Vice Premier and Economy Minister Aleksandr Shokhin told Radio Moscow correspondent Konstantin Garibov in an exclusive interview. He explained that the credit would be used to back the budget through noninflationary means, modernize, and raise the competitiveness of industry and agriculture.

Aleksandr Shokhin noted that the IMF decision was important for Russia also because it paved the way for the speediest end of the talks with official creditors on the repayment of Russia's foreign debts in the current year. This decision offers an opportunity for talks with the IMF over a new credit of $4 billion.

According to the Russian vice premier, Russia has normal relations with all international organizations, as well as the group of the world's seven most industrially developed countries. Mr. Shokhin believes that the main thing for today is to create a favorable climate for foreign investments. He says he thinks that a system of guarantees should be developed but not at the expense of the federal budget or government. Guarantees shall be created at a joint projects level. The schemes of mortgage guarantees and guarantees of a stable tax regime throughout the implementation of each investment project should be used. Such favorable conditions for foreign investors will enable Russia to handle the problem of recession more effectively than money borrowing.

Speaking about Russia's participation in the forthcoming meeting of the IMF and the World Bank Board of Governors due in Washington on 22 to 27 April, Aleksandr Shokhin said Russia planned to launch a number of new initiatives aimed at further developing equal and mutual advantageous credit and financial cooperation. He expressed hope that they would be approved just like a previous Russian proposal to establish special credit programs for countries with a transitional economy. Russia has already obtained $3 billion in credits for structural economic changes within the framework of this program.

Shokhin on Inflation, Belarus Union

LD2204163994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—Russia's decision to integrate its monetary system with Belarussia's should not have any effect on the inflation rate of the rouble until at least this summer, announced Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Friday. He was commenting on an International Monetary Fund statement that a new "spiral of inflation" was to be expected in Russia.

Only the trade and economic integration of the two states has begun at present, in accordance with the recently-signed agreement on monetary union, Shokhin said. The circulation of the rouble on Belarussian territory needs to be approved by the parliament since it requires changes in that country's constitution, and that takes time, he noted.

The vice-premier said that the agreement on monetary union was only "partly" signed on April 12. The deal is, he explained, that the agreement's articles which were connected with commercial and economic cooperation were to go in effect immediately after preparation was completed. These concerned, in particular, the removal of customs barriers and the conclusion of a transit agreement. But it was decided that the other, monetary part of the document was to become effective only after its legalization in Belarus, since the creation of a single centre of emission in Russia contradicts the Belarussian Constitution.

If the Belarussian legislation is changed in accordance with the documents signed in Moscow, then it will be the Russian State Duma's turn to examine the benefits of monetary union with Belarus.

If Belarus is not willing to accept a single emission centre in Russia, then there are no chances that Russia will agree to a one- to-one exchange of Belarussian notes for Russian roubles, Shokhin explained. In that case, Russia will have to follow a different unification scheme, by extending credit to Belarus on the same grounds as it was given to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan at the end of 1993.

Call Issued for Taxation Policy Adjustments

LD2404085794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Pyatigorsk, Stavropol Territory, April 24 TASS—"We insist that the president, the government and the Federal Assembly of Russia immediately take measures to adjust taxation policy, streamline managerial bureaucracy, resolutely curb crime and ensure strict compliance with laws", said a statement issued here by participants in a visiting session of the Union of Entrepreneurs and Lease-Holders of the Russian Federation.

The members of the union drew attention to the urgent necessity to increase efforts to combat crime also because, in their view, a large proportion of the population come to view entrepereneurs—the main taxpayers—as a mafia-like corrupt set.

"Democracy means a strong authority, not anarchy". The entrepreneurs want to see a realistic transition from intentions to carry on reforms to specific actions, the statement emphasised.

Offshore Oil Facilities To Be Improved

LD2404135494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] By 1999, Russia will have to bring up the standards of its offshore oil exploration and development facilities to meet the requirements of the Solace '74 international convention and the global maritime safety communications system, said an executive from Rosneft, a Russian holding company managing state shares in the country's oil enterprises.

Otherwise Russia will lose its contracts for projects outside its territorial waters, Gennadiy Elefteriadi told Interfax.

He said Russia would have to buy INMARSAT global satellite communications systems joined to the GPS-GLONAS navigation system, satellite monitoring systems, automatic compact ships' radio stations, etc. Russia today produces no such equipment meeting international standards, although, according to Rosneft experts, it is able to if it buys foreign licenses.

Russia nowadays possesses more than 140 vessels and other facilities for offshore oil exploration and development, more than 20 of which operate outside Russian waters, including in the Gulf of Mexico, the Middle East Gulf, and on the shelf of Vietnam.

Gerashchenko Ignores Criticism of Central Bank

PM2504095794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Yevgeniy Anisimov and Yevgeniy Kirsanov report: "Rebukes Whistled Past Gerashchenko's Temple Like Bullets"]

[Text] The latest, fourth congress of the Association of Russian Banks, which have recently been increasingly frequently called the "fifth estate," was held in Moscow Thursday and Friday [21-22 April]. This estate, however, can also aspire to a higher title: Few people today would risk casting doubt on the influence of commercial banks. In all, there are more than 2,000 banks in Russia, and the association has united almost 800 of them—naturally, the largest and most respectable financial establishments primarily become its members. The banks' actual influence on the economy is so great that both the government and the Central Bank of Russia deemed it necessary to tell the bankers of their intentions.

In particular, O. Soskovets, vice premier of the Russian Government, announced an upcoming revision of tax policy. He said that it will be aimed at creating the most favorable possible conditions for capital investments in production. But he at once "gladdened" those assembled with the fact that the government has a project according to which they must channel into developing the agro-industrial complex up to one-half of the profits made on deals in the currency market and on other "speculative" deals.

V. Gerashchenko, head of the Central Bank of Russia, was the traditional target for the bankers' attacks. They criticized him harshly for the archaic system of transactions, for the inordinately high interest rate on centralized credits, and for many other things. There is no point in enumerating all the grounds for criticism, since this time too Mr. Gerashchenko turned a deaf ear to the rebukes.

Even though one of the most painful questions—the admission of foreign banks onto Russian territory—was discussed at the congress, it rarely found itself at the center of attention. To all appearances, there will be no radical indulgences for foreign banks in the immediate future.

Kokoshin Urges Financial-Industrial Conglomerates

MK2304092094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 3

[Own correspondent's report: "Andrey Kokoshin: Robust Economy and Industry Are the Foundation of Russian National Security"]

[Text] Russia's national security should be founded on a developed economy with a robust financial system, Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy defense minister, stressed in his address at the Fourth Congress of the Russian Commercial Banks Association. He pointed out the need to accelerate the process of setting up formidable financial-industrial groups in Russia and the CIS in order to manufacture science-intensive industrial products for both civilian and military purposes that will be competitive on the world market.

The creation of financial-industrial groups will make it possible considerably to ease pressure on the government budget and to boost investment in industry. Back in 1991, Andrey Kokoshin, who headed a group of economists, historians, and industrialists at the time, put forward the initiative to create such groups and powerful companies drawing on rich foreign experience. The main elements of these "locomotives" of the domestic economy would be enterprises of the former USSR's military-industrial sector that are undergoing conversion to civilian uses and diversifying their area of expertise.

Pensioners To Receive New Benefits 1 May

LD2204131594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Luidmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—The State Duma, the Russian parliament's lower chamber, endorsed on Friday the government's bill on state pensions. According to the bill, a minimum monthly pension benefit in Russia is fixed at 19 thousand roubles from May 1 and all other pension benefits will be increased 1.3 times. Inflation compensation of 19700 roubles will be paid in addition to pension benefits as before. The difference between maximum and minimum benefits will increase twofold (comparing to 1.85 times at present).

The bill, which is also to be approved by the Federation Council, the upper chamber, will provide the adjustment of pensions to the price growth, taking into account the financial resourses of the pension fund. In spite of many critical remarks and proposals, the lawmakers decided to endorse the bill allowing the payment of new benefits to begin from May 1, but the work to improve the pension laws will continue. However, some proposals, including on the government's power to fully regulate pensions, were withdrawn from the bill.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Cosmos-2278 Satellite Launched From Baykonur

LD2304110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Semyon Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS— The Cosmos-2278 satellite was launched from the Baykonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 11.02, Moscow time, on Saturday. The launching was carried out by the Space Armed Forces in the interests of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The satellite was put into orbit by a Zenit-2 rocket-booster.

This was the first launching of a rocket of this type and the 22nd since the first firing-off in April, 1985, a spokesman for the Space Armed Forces told ITAR-TASS.

The Cosmos-2278 satellite is the 1075th spacecraft launched from the Baykonur Cosmodrome. The first one was put into orbit on October 4, 1957.

'Experts' on Zenit-2 Reusable Booster

LD2304175494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] At 12:02 Moscow time on Saturday the military-space forces of the Russian Defense Ministry launched a reusable booster Zenit-2 with a space craft Cosmos aboard.

Commenting this event, experts of the military space forces point out that in the framework of the state military space program Russia continues to supplement the grouping of satellites used in the interests of the Defense Ministry.

The reusable booster Zenit-2 is used to boost into orbit different space crafts with the disposable weight about 12.5 tonnes to the height of 200 kilometers (it was designed by the design bureau Yuzhnoye, the city of Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine). In accordance with the Russian state order which is in force till early 1995 the scientific-industrial association Yuzhnoye in Dnepropetrovsk will produce 3-5 reusable boosters Zenit-2 annually.

Zenit-2 was created in the frameworks of the program Energiya- Buran to be used as a side-mounting booster.

In addition, there are certain plans to use Zenit-2 instead of the returnable booster Soyuz to boost manned space crafts into orbit. In addition, scientists are considering the issue to launch space crafts of the type Soyuz-TM into the near-earth orbit with a decline 51.6 grades from the Russian cosmodrome Plesetsk. The construction of a launching site consisting of two launching devices of the reusable booster Zenit is being completed here. The first launch from the cosmodrome Plesetsk is scheduled for 1997.

Experts also do not rule out possibility to use the boosters Zenit in the program of the international space station on the project Alfa. At present only one launching site situated on the cosmodrome Baykonur is used to launch Zenit boosters. Another one was completely destructed during the explosion of a rocket on October 4, 1990. There are no plans on its restoration.

Experts of the military space forces assert that Zenit-2 booster is an ecologically pure rocket (its fuel—kerosene, liquid oxygen is the oxidizer). The over-all weight of the rocket is 259 tonnes. Until now Zenit booster was used only to boost space crafts into orbit in the interests of the Russian Defense Ministry. A new modification of the rocket Zenit-3 is being developed on the basis of Zenit-2. It will be used to boost space crafts into geostationary and planetary orbits.

Orbital Parameters Given

LD2504100794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0853 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The Cosmos-2278 artificial Earth satellite launched yesterday by the Russian military-space forces from the Baykonur cosmodrome has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters: period of revolution: 102.0 minutes, orbital inclination: 70.99 degrees, apogee: 880.78 km, perigee: 851.95 km. The satellite was launched by a Zenit-2 rocket-launcher.

ITAR-TASS was told at the Russian military space forces that Cosmos-2278 is the 1,075th satellite launched from Baykonur in the 37 years of its history.

Grachev, Meshkov on Sevastopol as Fleet Headquarters

LD2304151194

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1000 GMT on 23 April on the Vesti newscast carries a video report by correspondent A. Sladkov on the Black Sea Fleet issue. Sladkov says: "The Ukrainian town of Sevastopol and the Russian naval base there remains the stumbling block in resolving the issue of the final division of the Black Sea Fleet. Moscow insists on Sevastopol for Russia's main Black Sea base and rejects the idea of moving to Donuzlav. Moreover, Russia will not accept the alternative of having both fleets based in Sevastopol."

The video then shows Russian Defense Minister Grachev, who says: "We cannot drive thousands of families out of one town, remove them from their homes, and settle them in different towns—now without homes. We must think about people. We must think about the pensioners, who, as members of the Black Sea Fleet, defended our homeland. We do not have the right just to cast them aside."

The video then shows interviews with people walking by on the street.

Sladkov notes that the population's mood is pro-Russian but does not want hostility. However, he says, "the Crimean leader is more radical."

The video shows Crimean President Meshkov addressing a demonstration: "As president of the Republic of Crimea I consider it impermissible to have the headquarters of the Ukrainian fleet on the same territory, in the same republic. For us it will be constant source of tension, a source of conflict and confrontation."

Program Shows 'Secret' Missile Test Center

LD2304125094

[Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1800 GMT on 22 April on the "Today" program carries a report on the Plesetsk missile test center in the town of (Mirnyy) in Arkhangelsk oblast. The correspondent says the site is not shown on maps because it is where military missiles have been tested since 1957. He says the country knew nothing of these tests for decades, including the successes or failures.

A film shows an aerial view of the town, a convoy of unidentified missiles on the road, and a missile transporter erector launcher, TEL, driving down a forest road.

The correspondent says these scenes are being shown for the first time, adding that disasters during missile launches in 1973 and 1980 resulted in the deaths of more than 50 people. Video clips then show an explosion, with two soldiers dragging a third past flames.

The correspondent then interviews an unidentified lieutenant colonel in front of a memorial. The lieutenant says: "I took part in organizing the funerals. Of course, it left a big impression. When I come here, I can see that moment."

The correspondent continues: "The Plesetsk range was not only a testing center. Events connected with the Cuban missile crisis in the 1960's form a special page in its history. Soviet missiles had been delivered to Cuba. The United States decided to destroy them from the air."

A video recording shows TEL's maneuvering and being driven out of hangars and along a road. The video then shows Major General Nikolay Moroz, assistant commander in chief of the Missile Forces, identified by caption, who says. "When it became known that the Soviet Union had 12 missiles with the range to reach America, this fact had a great influence on the politicians."

The correspondent says: "Some of these missiles were aimed at the United States from Plesetsk. Today there is a different atmosphere at the range. This is the secret computer center. Here they follow American missile testing. Moscow and Washington have agreed to exchange information on these kinds tests, and in accordance with the agreements the Americans have installed this equipment in Plesetsk. The Russian specialists have installed their own control instruments in the United State. Today the soldiers at Plesetsk are not only studying launches of other people's missiles; they are also developing Russian military missiles for the 21st Century. The Plesetsk state missile testing range. The fourth-generation Topol [SS-25] missile is being developed here [as heard]. The video shows the correspondent standing in front of an SS-25 road unit.

Cruise Missiles Launched During Air Force Exercise

LD2204192894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's air force is holding command post exercises. As part of these, cruise rockets have been launched against aerial targets on one of the long-distance aviation's test ranges. The execution of the missile launches was described as excellent. They were executed by a TU-22M long-range bomber crew led by Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir (Melikhan) and Major Vladimir (Nikitin). This information came from the Russian air force's press center.

Solution Sought for Submarine Yard's Nuclear Waste

LD2304163894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Larisa Beloivan and Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok, 23 Apr—Russia does not yet have the resources to build purification installations, but the problem of utilizing waste from nuclear submarines must be tackled immediately, said Yuriy Maslakov, the director of the Zvezda nuclear submarine repair yard, at a briefing devoted to the completion of Russo- Japanese consultations on utilizing nuclear waste.

Nikolay Yegorov, Russian deputy minister of atomic energy, who attended the consultations, told journalists that there were three possible solutions to the problem: Build a purification complex on the territory of the yard itself; set up the same system in an isolated area of the Maritime Kray; or introduce advanced purification plants. As has already been reported, Russia and Japan have signed an agreement on an allocation by the Japanese side of $70 million toward converting Russia's arms enterprises. There are plans to use part of this money at the Zvezda yard.

Yeltsin Condolences on Chernobyl Anniversary

LD2204185694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin addressed the nation on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. He said that April 26 was a day of mourning to those who died in radiation emergencies and disasters.

He paid homage to those who were exposed to radiation while fighting the disaster. He said that the country would not forget those who were still living in areas contaminated by nuclear radiation.

In an address released by the presidential press service Yeltsin said April 26 was a day when the danger of nuclear disasters was especially obvious and that everything had to be done to make the world a safer place.

"On the day when Russia bows its head in memory of those who died in radiation disasters I express my deep condolences to the Russians and citizens of other countries whose relatives and friends fell in a fight with a deadly force and shielded us from disaster," the address says.

Official Says Chernobyl-Type Accident Impossible

LD2304174694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] An accident similar to that in Chernobyl is impossible in Russia, a spokesman for Rosenergoatom, Russia's nuclear power engineering concern, running all 9 Russian nuclear power plants, has said.

Anatoliy Zemskov told Interfax that after the events in Chernobyl, much work had been done to make nuclear reactors in Russia safer.

For instance, at the Leningrad nuclear power station, the first power block has been reconstructed. Technological channels were replaced and so were the reactor's inside graphite covering and the protection system. The speed with which rods fall into the active zone has increased from 18 to 4 seconds.

"This work makes it possible to avoid negative processes that are possible at the Chernobyl-type reactors," Zemskov declared. "Of course, this does not rule out separate incidents, however, today's safety systems can localize them," he said.

He also reported that the term of some reactors exploitation would soon be up, and power units would have to be stopped in ten years or so. This holds true of the Leningrad, Kola, Kursk, and Novoronezhsk nuclear power stations. So, it is now very important to start designing nuclear reactors of an advanced type, Zemskov said.

He disclosed that engineers at the St. Petersburg branch of the Atomenergoproekt institute were completing work on the design of a new NP-500 reactor. In the first quarter of 1995, work will start on an experimental reactor with a maximum capacity of 650 megawatt. "The equipment used in this reactor has been tested in most critical situations and has proved reliable," Zemskov said.

In his words, experts are considering the possibility of setting up nuclear power plants in some remote regions. "Sakhalin, Kamchatka, Chukotka, and Yakutia ask for smaller yield atomic power stations on their territories," he reported.

In his words, there is a plan to transform some nuclear reactors from icebreakers to movable platforms. Besides, there are blue- prints for building a small remote-controlled nuclear power plant. Placed underground, such a station can operate for 25 years automatically, provided fuel delivery is regular.

Official Denies Plans for Khabarovsk Plant

MK2304083094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Khabarovsk—"There are no plans at the moment to build any underground or surface nuclear electric-power stations on the territory of Khabarovsk Kray," Nikolay Balyukin, general director of the "Khabarovskenergo" joint-stock company said, commenting on reports of the supposed construction together with Japan of an underground nuclear electric-power station in the area of Komsomolsk-na-Amure. In his words, the discussions conducted in past years about the possible construction of a nuclear station in the area of Lake Emoron ended in the decision that a return to the question is possible only after serious scientific studies and the holding of a referendum among the population.

Shumeyko Offers Longer Service for Warrant Officers

LD2304142494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1319 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko has suggested extending military service for warrant officers for another five to ten years with their consent.

Shumeyko sent a draft law "on military duty and military service" to the State Duma chairman on Saturday.

"There is a shortage of warrant officer specialists in the Russian Armed Forces," Shumeyko explained. At present, warrant officers retire at the age of 45. After retirement from the army, many of them start looking for a job in the civilian sector whose employees themselves are facing redundancy claims.

Extended military service up to 55 years for warrant officers could help partially ease the problem, provided they want to stay in the army, Shumeyko said.

Federal Assembly

Duma Debates Role of Peacekeepers

MK2204095094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Nikolay Ulyanov report under the "Problem" rubric: "From Whom Will Peacekeepers Take Orders? Emergency Situations Ministry and Defense Ministry vs State Duma Committee"]

[Text] The State Duma is continuing its discussion of a draft federal law, approved in the first reading, "On the Procedure of Providing Military and Civilian Personnel of the Russian Federation for Participation in Operations to Maintain or Restore International Peace and Security and in Other Types of Peacekeeping Activities," prepared by the State Duma defense committee.

Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, who spoke at the hearings, thus outlined the situation that had taken shape in the wake of Russia's having carried out its peacekeeping obligations to the United Nations and the nearest neighbors. Since October 1973, Soviet, and later, Russian observers participated in peacekeeping operations under UN auspices in Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, in the Iran-Iraq border area, Western Sahara, Cambodia, Mozambique, ex-Yugoslavia and, besides, along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and in Abkhazia. Mr. Kondratyev reminded his audience that had Russia not taken in summer 1992 "resolute measures in hot spots of the 'near abroad,'" without waiting for a legislative base to be prepared, the flame of war could have spread to the territory of Russia. At that time the Defense Ministry formed, within the framework of the Russian Armed Forces, nine battalions of Russian military men and sent them to South Ossetia, Georgia, and the Dniester

Region. A little earlier—in April 1992—a Russian battalion, which was later reinforced, was sent to Yugoslavia under the UN flag. In Tajikistan there is the 201st Motorized Rifle Division with reinforcement assets as part of the CIS peacekeeping forces, and more than 16,500 Russian servicemen are based on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. Proceeding from the situation that had taken shape, two motorized rifle divisions were detached from armed forces personnel, whose servicemen are being trained in accordance with a particular program specially designed for peacekeeping.

After such a thorough instruction of the scenario, the Defense Ministry representatives passed over to the main part of his address, which is still causing dispute among the deputies. Let me set the record straight right away by saying that the text of the draft federal law etches in stone the spontaneously established norm under which peacekeeping operations are conducted by the Defense Ministry. These functions are entrusted to Russian Armed Forces line units. A spokesman for the Duma Defense Committee spoke in favor of maintaining this position, believing that a reassignment of the peacekeeping troops and detaching them from armed forces personnel would call for the creation of one more Russian army. The state budget has no money to support such a decision.

Here is what General Kondratyev said in this connection. "Among the Defense Ministry leadership there is worry about distracting regular troops for the performance of missions unrelated to their direct purpose. The personnel are charged with police functions untypical for them. One should also take account of the fact that the presence of Russian Armed Forces units in conflict zones has a negative affect on the growing anti-army sentiment among the local population. The use of a regular army produces a negative reaction and gives cause for systematic accusations of Russia's having an imperial policy." Mr. Kondratyev remarked that these sort of functions should not be performed by line units but by specially formed, trained, and appropriately equipped military contingents, that is, by "peacekeeping forces of Russia." The Defense Ministry spokesman promised to turn over completely the special training bases set up for the already mentioned two separate peacekeeping divisions in the charge of the new separate peacekeeping organization.

The reason for such a demonstrative debarring of the Defense Ministry from peacekeeping functions is simple. There is a proposal from the Ministry of Emergency Situations to the Defense Ministry on the transfer of the peacemaking functions and the peacekeeping subunits to the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The Defense Ministry, in the person of Colonel General Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff, agreed with this proposal.

Neither did this Emergency Situations Ministry proposal raise any objections from many deputies. For example, Mr. Popov of the Agrarian faction elaborated an entire conception on the need to transfer the peacekeeping functions. Its essence is this: Under Articles 77 and 78 of the current Constitution, the Armed Forces can be put into action only owing to a threat of aggression against Russia. But interethnic conflicts, which call upon Russia to show firmness and toughness, do not belong to such situations. As a rule, the Russian Federation president imposed a state of emergency in zones of interethnic feuding, and Emergency Situations Ministry representatives were the first to start to settle the conflicts—but after they proved to be unmanageable, military subunits were brought in. Thus the State Duma Defense Committee members' fears at the Emergency Situations Ministry's little specific experience appear far-fetched. Mr. Popov believes that the peacekeeping contingent ought to be formed on a voluntary basis (this view is backed by the "Women of Russia" faction and the majority of deputies of the other factions), organized on different principles and wear a uniform distinct from that of the Armed Forces. Mr. Popov recalled that in the United States this type of activity is in the charge of the National Guard, which is not part of the U.S. Armed Forces. In the deputy's view, the main distinction of the army from a peacekeeping contingent is that the latter has no enemy image in carrying out of operations—its functions are distinctly of a humanitarian nature.

The Duma's second hearings of the draft law and its approval by the Federal Assembly are still ahead. Time will tell if the clear contradiction between the main agents covered by the law and its drafters will be removed or not. What causes amazement, however, is the very fact that whereas the Duma Defense Committee has talked about taking into consideration the Defense Ministry and the Russian Foreign Ministry amendments (the latter in its turn recommended to the committee to pay attention to expert assessments of the Defense Ministry), it has not reflected these amendments in any way in the draft law.

Duma Committee Produces Political Party Bill

LD2204201794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian State Duma committee responsible for relations with political groups and religious organizations produced its bill on political parties at a news conference in Moscow Friday.

Only those political parties would be regarded as national whose membership exceeds 5000, which has local organizations with memberships of at least 10 in at least one half of the regions and republics incorporated into the Russian Federation and which have gained at least 5 percent in parliamentary elections.

Under the bill, parties would own land, buildings and installations, houses, equipment and tools, printing houses, TV and radio stations, money and other property.

The party's funds would be made up of entry and membership fees, state subsidies, voluntary donations and proceeds of publishing, educational and other activities. At the end of every year the party would publish a financial report and a list of its property items.

The political party would be able to pursue electoral campaigns independently or in blocs with other parties. For the duration of the campaign the blocs would have the rights and duties of a political party. Should a party violate the Constitution and legislation, it would be told by the prosecutor's office to stop the illegal activities. A party failing to comply would be suspended for a maximum of six months by a court decision.

The parliamentary group in any legislative body made of deputies of a political party that has ceased its activities would be regarded as dissolved.

Foreign Economic Activities Hearings Continue

MK2304085094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 3

[Dmitriy Kamin report: "Results of State Duma Hearings on Foreign Economic Activities. Government Is Recommended to Give a Meaning to its Policy"]

[Text] As KOMMERSANT-DAILY already wrote on 20 and 22 April, the parliamentary hearings on foreign economic activities organized by Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the Duma Economic Policy Committee, are unlikely to alter appreciably the Chernomyrdin cabinet's foreign economic policy. The committee's recommendations can still be considered as a rather promising option in a bid to improve Russia's foreign economic ties.

The Economic Policy Committee proceeds in its recommendations from the fact that "a sensible state foreign economic policy is absent." This finds an expression in that Russian exports are increasingly raw-material-oriented which adds no hard currency sources for the Russian budget. Besides, Sergey Glazyev believes, the existing sources for adding to the budget from foreign economic activities are far from being fully used. He is confident that a tougher control over customs and hard currency, coupled with the abolition of invalid easy terms, can alone add to the budget between $8 billion to $12 billion.

The committee also asked the Duma to expedite the passing of a package of three economic laws that propose to delimit clearly the functions of the authorities, to define the rights and duties of the participants in foreign economic activities, as well as to set the norms on non-tariff regulation and export control.

As for the government, it was recommended to submit to the Duma a program for expanding the export of finished products, to coordinate the industrial, foreign economic, scientific and technical policy, to make public the procedure for the registration of special exporters, as well as to join hands with the Central Bank to impede the outflow of capital abroad.

Burdened with the current problems (including those created by the foreign economic activities lobby), the government is hardly enthusiastic about Glazyev's recommendations—they cause irritation because, from the political point of view, they detract from the professional prestige of the executive branch.

Many others are also unhappy with Sergey Glazyev's persistence. For example, as he was preparing the foreign economic activities hearings, he applied to the "Rosvooruzheniye" state corporation but its chiefs declined to provide information about its operations. In response, the Committee decided to hold on 24 May hearings on military-technical cooperation.

Deputies' First 100 Days Assessed

PM2204151594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 94 pp 1-2

[Olga Gerasimenko and Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin article: "The Deputies Have Not Gone Round With the Hat, But They Have Done Quite a Bit of Traveling—Such Are the Preliminary Results of the State Duma's First 100 Days"]

[Text] As one deputy joked rather aptly—it's funny, but the Duma is working. The first 100 days of its work overturned the numerous forecasts about an untimely fate for the new parliament. To all appearances, nobody (and this particular Mr. "Nobody" is very well known) intends to launch another antiparliamentary putsch just yet. Indeed, it has to be admitted that the Duma members are giving no cause for such action. They suffer their everyday hardships stoically (yes, they grumble, they appeal for help to our fraternal newspaper, PRAVDA, but they are not blackmailing the Kremlin, nor, touch wood, are they taking up arms.) And they are legislating with tolerable proficiency. The Federation Council, for instance, needed 10 days of table thumping to confirm the budget for the second quarter, whereas it took the State Duma just one. Approximately 100 decrees have been adopted, several dozen laws were passed on their first reading, and three, including the most important one—"On the Status of Deputies of the First Convocation"—even went straight through without further review.

Speaker Ivan Rybkin attributes this work capacity of the Duma to its well-formulated internal structure. Each Duma committee has become a kind of mini-parliament which does not take nine months to give birth to laws like the former Supreme Soviet but merely brings the presidential and government drafts up to standard by means of argument and reconciliation, after which thse drafts are discussed in the State Duma Council where the faction and committee leaders come to a uniform opinion. Even the actual sessional sitting itself serves more as a channel for public pronunciation of a decision than for heated debate.

Russians are entitled to reproach the Duma for living beyond its means—what with ministerial salaries, cars, dachas, foreign trips, and so on and so forth. But each charge acquires virtue in comparison. The former parliament, for instance, had a fleet of 1,000 cars at its disposal. The Duma is provided with just 72, plus 12 buses. But a decision on the allocation of a further 300 vehicles has already been prepared. Come summer, deputies will be able to take off with their families to one of 14 vacation homes, chalets, and dachas. Incidentally, the Empress Catherine II also allowed "distinguished citizens" to "ride around the city in a coach and two or four, and to own suburban courts and gardens." So the roots of deputies' privileges (and not only theirs) run deep.

Of all the Duma members, just 25 (first come, first served) have as yet received apartments following their enforced move [za vyseleniyem], and the rest "drift" between the Moskva, Mir, and Rossiya Hotels.

Unlike the deputies of yesteryear, today's have been relieved of the need to stand in line for their wages twice a month. They line up just once (as in all respectable parliaments around the world), which means they receive a lot all at once. A deputy's salary fluctuates between 450,000 and 800,000 [rubles] depending on his post.

But let's be honest here: Parliamentarism a priori is an expensive luxury. Totalitarianism is cheaper by far, but who will be first in line for this option? We are better off recalling (and with good cause!) Vasiliy Shulgin, a famous deputy from the Fourth State Duma: "...while the deputies debate, while they brawl in the parliaments, the machine guns lie still. But as soon as these outlets are silenced...the malice is directed through other channels." Very well, it is better to let deputies get about in a Volvo or a Mercedes, and so be it if Zhirinovskiy, like Panikovskiy, feels the blunt end of a rubber-soled boot, and all the better if it is painful, for through this extravagance and sacrifice they will simultaneously save Russian democracy. Is there any more noble lot for the people's elected?

The Most Diligent, the Most Important [subhead]

Do you know, reader, who the most disciplined member of the Duma is? It is the Communist Aleksandr Mikhaylov. He has not missed a single session, nor skipped a single ballot. Not far behind him are L. Gagut, M. Sidorov, and V. Gusev, members of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], the Agrarian S.A. Ponomarev, and F. Arslanova of "Women of Russia." They have missed just half a session in all. And who is the least disciplined? The hypnotist Anatoliy Kashpirovskiy and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev—neither has once (!) attended the Duma assemblies.

Government Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha has attended just one session, and then only by necessity: He turned up to defend agriculturally related budget stances in front of the Duma members. Other ministers have only just bettered these records—Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, has attended one session in 33; Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin—one in 14; Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin—one in 10; Nationalities Affairs Minister Sergey Shakhray—one in nine; and Minister of Justice Yuriy Kalmykov—one in seven. The most diligent of all was Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan, who attended one in four. It's enough to make anybody want to become a deputy.

Among the most disciplined are the following factions (draw your own conclusions, voters)—"Communists of Russia," "Agrarian Party," and the LDPR, while the least disciplined are Boris Fedorov's "Liberal Democratic Union of 12 December," Gaydar's "Russia's Choice," and Shakhray's Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRUA], and Yavlinskiy's "Yabloko."

The following table shows attendance at the Duma sessions (in percentages):

Yabloko	46.5
PRUA	50.9
Russia's Choice	51.9
12 December	53.9
Not Affiliated to a Faction	56.2
Democratic Party of Russia	63.2
New Regional Policy	67.7
Russian Path	71.5
Women of Russia	74.1
LDPR	80.2
Agrarian Party	84.4
Communist Party of Russia	93.1

By far the most influential deputies, according to a poll conducted by the Sociological Center for the Study of Political Culture, are Speaker Ivan Rybkin, Yegor Gaydar, and Gennadiy Zyuganov. The top 50 "most influential" includes 11 representatives of Russia's Choice, six from "Yabloko," and five from the Communist Party of Russia, the LDPR, PRUA, and the Agrarian Party. So the level of attendance is not directly proportional to degree of importance. Rather, it is the other way around.

A Journey May Beckon Tomorrow

The deputies have done quite a bit of traveling to various parts of the world. In less than four months, 72 members of the Duma visited 26 countries. As a Volgograd deputy told us, foreign trips are often a matter of chance. A breathless colleague races up (or, maybe, bumps into you in the elevator) and asks: "Do you have a foreign travel passport?" "Yes." "Come on, then, we fly this evening." "Where?" "Give me your passport, you will find out soon enough." The stunned colleague does not resist, and, indeed, by evening he is walking carefully up the gangway and onto an airbus. It's a REEEAL honor to be a deputy.

Admittedly, the State Duma has not yet ratified a single international treaty, although the president and the government have sent it around 60. Well, we live in hope. This, after all, is the way we are: It takes a while to break this animal.

The altogether most heated debates at the sittings center on whom to send where. There was an unimaginably desperate political-platform duel, for instance, over a problem of great moment for Russia—whom to send as observers for the elections in South Africa. It emerged that there were oh so many worthy people! Admittedly, we never had the slightest doubt that, in our country, every member of the Duma is prepared to assist not only de Klerk and Mandela, but also Clinton, and even 'Arafat.

That's the Duma's Lot

We do not know how things stand in Rwanda or Burundi, but parliamentarians in Russia are under absolutely no threat of physical inactivity. We once saw Vladimir Lukin, former Russian ambassador to the United States, negotiate 10 stories in succession by foot. Then, on the 10th, he suddenly hopped into the elevator and, without breathing in (the "Overload" button glowed dimly), and pressing himself up against the other unbreathing bodies, he went on up to his International Affairs Committee on the 24th Floor. Alas, in the former City Hall building, the very same trouble is experienced with the elevators as with attendance.

Just why Duma members are so unenthusiastic about plenary sessions is a particular topic of conversation. But an obvious guess would be: In running for parliament they were laying claim not only, and not necessarily primarily, to the role of legislator. For most of them the Duma platform is a useful springboard from which to launch themselves into "celebrity status" and win popularity. But the Duma denied itself the chance of daily televised coverage, which means there is no point racing to grab the microphones: Where is the sense in pontificating solely for the benefit of fellow deputies and a handful of journalists. Surely this explains the fact that even some faction leaders—Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, for instance—have never once delivered incendiary speeches actually inside the assembly hall in the entire 100 days, while outside such speeches are too numerous to count.

Building a political image and maintaining a reputation earned requires skilled tactics. And rhetorical speechifying at the microphones is not always appropriate here. Incidentally, a word about reputation. In the opinion of many Duma members from the provinces, it is impossible, even in two years, to break into the world of the famous through the powerful armor of the capital's monster politicians (faction and party leaders, and the Mr. Ministers). This is probably why new shining stars in the Duma firmament are hardly even glimmering.

On the contrary, another trend is emerging: The provincial deputies attack their own electoral districts ever more resolutely, getting their governorship and mayorality campaigning off to an early start. In point of fact, a new political local elite is forming in Moscow. And right here there is no shortage of such Duma members.

We'll place a small wager—one in three of those who stand for the next elections to local administrative bodies will be from among today's *Children of the Arbat* (the Duma is still located on the Arbat, No. 36). They will, of course, have powerful competition from the "children of Dmitrovka" (the Federation Council is installed at No. 46, Dmitrovka). But this, to all intents and purposes, is one and the same group.

Our Conclusion

The Duma has not justified the worst expectations. But nobody got anywhere near the best. Even for this the Duma members are worthy of our recognition. Admittedly, the deputies of the current convocation, like their Soviet predecessors, feel most painfully every shred of criticism directed at them. But, in our view, this vice can be forgiven. The Duma members, it seems, do not read the foreign press much. Their colleagues abroad frankly have to put up with far more from our foreign colleagues. So this infantile disorder of parliamentarism is just something you have to go through.

That there are very few places where the president and the government would place the supreme representative authority in the humiliating conditions experienced in Russia is another matter. But this is a topic for another article.

State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin Profiled

MK2304114094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 4

[Yuriy Ivanov report: "The Bottom Line of a Political Scandal. An Ordinary Russian Speaker Who Has Led Everyone Down the Garden Path"]

[Text] Ivan Rybkin, who became a State Duma deputy on the ticket of the Agrarian Party and was elected speaker at the initiative of the communists, has definitely broken with the opposition. This week he announced that he would step down as deputy chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF]. Yesterday, the plenary meeting of the CPRF Central Executive Committee plenary meeting readily met his request.

There are various opinions regarding Ivan Rybkin, current State Duma chairman and former second secretary of the Volgograd Oblast Communist Party committee. Some see him as a man coming from the people who has been elevated to the high post by sheer happenstance. "The milestones of my working biography are pretty simple," Rybkin said, justifiably so, in a recent interview. Indeed, the speaker has a typical agrarian-staff background: quiet work at the organization departments of first district, then oblast, party committees; and finally the Central Committee of the RSFSR Communist Party. It should be added that Rybkin's appearance is fully in line with his biography: a short stature, a quiet voice, pleasant manners in conversation, and a complete absence even of outward signs of willfulness, let alone charisma. Nonetheless, unlike most of his colleagues who have quietly settled down in all kinds of businesses, not only has Rybkin made a brilliant career by assuming one of the highest state posts, but he is by right considered one of the ten most influential Russian politicians.

What appears to be more pertinent is another view whereby the role of a "gray politician," a "mediocrity," is just a role the State Duma chairman sometimes thinks necessary to play. Meanwhile, Rybkin did not seem a mediocrity at all at the Supreme Soviet, where he carefully but uncompromisingly criticized the "Yeltsin regime." Yet more proof of his firm political convictions is the fact that in October he was one of the last to have been escorted out of the burning White House at gunpoint.

When Rybkin started talking about loyalty to the president and commitment to the course of reform upon having been "pushed through" by the communists and agrarians as State Duma chairman, the speaker's former supporters accused him of opportunism and "working for the democrats." However, those who are closely familiar with Rybkin are certain that no metamorphoses have occurred in him: "It is not he who is changing, but circumstances, and Rybkin is just adapting to the circumstances so as to work effectively." In fact, Rybkin can well go to the president (for whose impeachment he voted in September) with a bunch of flowers on his birthday, or to appoint Andrey Voykov, a democrat, who formerly was deputy chief of the presidential administration, as chief of the State Duma's staff. All this is essentially trifles, but Ruslan Khasbulatov's recent experience has shown fairly convincingly that it is trifles (inappropriate words or gestures) that can help one fall out with the president for good. As regards matters of principle, however, the speaker acts decisively and quite independently. After all, it is precisely Rybkin's staffers who quickly and promptly formalized the release of the "Lefortovo inmates," thus making it impossible for the president "to reverse" the amnesty decree.

Clearly, Rybkin's apparently scandalous departure from the Communist Party leadership should not be overestimated. While heading the lower chamber, Rybkin has not become a pawn in the hands of the opposition. But seeing him as the president's man would also be ill-advised. He is playing his own game. His short-term program is quite clear: not to repeat the sad experience of Anatoliy Lukyanov and Ruslan Khasbulatov. As for his long-term program, many deputies believe that the wise and careful Rybkin with an image of "a mediocrity" may turn out to be a compromise figure suiting political forces as a presidential candidate who will be easy to manipulate in case of his victory. But what Rybkin himself thinks on the subject is still anyone's guess.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Holds Discussions With Republic Leaders

LD2304123294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1159 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr—Conversations were held today between Boris Yeltsin and a number of leaders of constituent republics of the Russian Federation, the Russian president's press service reports.

The conversations explored the most pressing sociopolitical and socio-economic problems of the republics, and the state of affairs regarding the implementation of a number of specific economic programs in which the regions have a particular interest.

There was discussion of ways in which economic and political transformations could be carried out effectively in the republics, as well as the reform of organs of representative power and of local self-government.

The president devoted particular attention to the strengthening of Russian statehood, the problem of interethnic relations, matters connected with conversion processes, and the organized conduct of springtime work in the fields. The republican leaders again stated that the treaty of social accord was of great political significance and declared their support for it.

Troops Move Into N. Ossetia-Ingushetia Corridor

LD2304162094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] In accordance with a decision of the interim administration in the state of emergency area in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Russian Internal Affairs Ministry internal troops conducted an operation on Saturday to move into the 8-kilometer security corridor. The interior troops task is to occupy the entire corridor.

All North Ossetian and Ingush law enforcement units were pulled out of the corridor in advance. The RIA agency reports that the operation aimed at occupying the security corridor has proceeded without any major complications. Only near the village of Ali-Yurt in Ingushetia did a group of local resident try to prevent the interior troops from carrying out their operational task. The incident was settled promptly and without bloodshed.

Ingushetia's Aushev Curtails Parliament's Powers

MK2304112094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Natalya Gorodetskaya report under the "Conflict" rubric: "Ingushetia President Curtails Parliament's Rights"]

[Excerpt] Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev yesterday signed an edict "On Some Powers of the President and National Assembly of the Republic of Ingushetia." The 13 April edict prohibits parliament from making statements, coming out with appeals, and taking other actions related to domestic and foreign policy without approval from the republic's president.

As many people know, several days ago the Ingush parliament asked Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin to impose direct federal rule in the State of Emergency zone. Yesterday, Ingushetia's parliamentarians appealed to the deputies of the Federation Council and the State Duma of Russia. In the appeal they describe the 1992 armed conflict in Prigorodnyy Rayon of North Ossetia "as a carefully planned action by the North Ossetia leaders to ethnically purge citizens of Ingush nationality from this territory." In the opinion of parliament, calls for reconciliation when there are tens of thousands of refugees are taken by the Ingush people as calls for reconciling themselves to the role of exiles while the Republic of North Ossetia leaders "are growing increasingly confident in their impunity." The parliamentarians are confident that peace and accord can be restored between the Ingush and Ossetians "only when those deported have returned to their homes." [passage omitted]

Khamchiyev: Ossetians 'Aiming for Mass Bloodshed'

LD2204233594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1654 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—Belan Khamchiyev, the permanent representative of the Ingush Republic under the Russian president, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the latest events on the border of the two republics once again prove that the Ossetian side is aiming for mass bloodshed. According to him, North Ossetia is shutting off all prospects for the negotiation process.

In the situation that has emerged, Khamchiyev believes the entire responsibility for the failure of the latest round of negotiations between the leaders of the two republics rests upon the top leaders of North Ossetia and Russia. Given that all possible means for a peaceful settlement have been virtually exhausted, it is expedient at the next sitting of the Federation Council to consider the question of introducing amendments to the Russian president's decree on introducing a state of emergency and to introduce direct federal rule on the territory of Prigorodnyy Rayon.

Chechen President on Need for Defense Shield

LD2204123394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev has favored the need for the creation of an efficient CIS defense shield which would have a powerful military potential and would be as good as the Warsaw Pact of NATO. In an interview with INTERFAX Friday [22 April] he said that the need to take such a step is conditioned by the fact that the Euro-Asian space of the former Soviet Union is now subject to dangerous bargaining in the West and this, he said, violates the fragile balance of forces and is fraught with global cataclysms.

Too many people in Russia and the world are not interested in the stabilization of the Euro-Asian space of the former Soviet Union and Russia, as well as in the restoration and strengthening of its might, said Dudayev.

"After a thorough analysis of the situation I came to the conclusion that the restoration of the CIS defensive power and Russia's status as a great power is the only way out of the imbalance of forces taking shape in the world, said Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Chechen Figures Comment on Relations With Moscow

PM2204135194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Gennadiy Sobolev: "Tired of Confrontation in Groznyy. Discussion of Russian President's Directive in Chechnya"]

[Text] Chechnya President Dzhokhar Dudayev has announced that his analysis services are carefully studying Boris Yeltsin's directive ordering the Russian Government to hold consultations with the North Caucasus Republic. In Groznyy they are also tired of confrontation, and, presumably, time is on the side of those who are prepared to seek compromises. But the upcoming talks will be complicated by two facts: Moscow will demand that Chechnya acknowledge that it is a component of the Russian Federation and, moreover, the Russian leaders are still in contact with political forces in opposition to Dudayev. But these facts are an increasing irritant to Dudayev and his associates.

Certainly, one cannot regard as coincidental the fact that in these past few days the Chechnya state security department has received an order to deploy its subunits. The point is, according to Ayub Satuyev, the department's deputy chief, the opposition could become more active next week. "The leadership has the strength and resources to curb the enemies of the people, and we will adopt the toughest measures with regard to the opposition," he said.

But the opposition, which intends to hold its own meeting in Moscow next week, is accusing certain circles in the Russian leadership of attempting, as Abdulla Bugayev, leader of the "Marsho" party said, to "find a compromise with the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime, ignoring the interests of the Chechen people and of the republic's entire multinational population."

"One should realize that the people are tired of Dzh. Dudayev's tyrannical regime and of Moscow's inconsistent and unclear position," one Chechen opposition leader said. "Otherwise there will be a spontaneous explosion and the consequences could be very serious."

A. Bugayev called for free, democratic elections in Chechnya, involving all social and political forces. "Chechnya democratic forces do not intend to retreat from this position, even if the Russian Federation Federation Council or some other organ of authority decides to declare the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime legal," A. Bugayev said.

Not that all Chechen opposition figures are that resolute. Yaragi Mamodayev, head of the republic government of people's confidence, urged the leaders of all political forces and movements in Chechnya to achieve national reconciliation and work out a common position at the upcoming talks with Russia.

Commenting on Boris Yeltsin's directive, Ya. Mamodayev said: "My government of people's confidence believes that the Russian side's efforts to work not only with Dzhokhar Dudayev, but also with opposition political movements could result in a deeper political split in Chechnya and could complicate the already fragile negotiating process. For that very reason we are urging all our compatriots not to split into pro- and anti-Dudayev factions, but to subordinate their personal or group ambitions to national interests in order to deliver Chechnya from total crisis after it has been through so much."

Ya. Mamodayev believes that no single political movement or group of forces can objectively express the will of the entire people. So, he said, we are proposing to hold a congress of the Chechen people in the very near future to get to grips with the problems of the relationship between Russia and Chechnya.

Electricity Off Throughout Chechen Republic

LD2204131194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Staff workers under the Chechen president told INTERFAX that Thursday night electricity was switched off throughout the Republic. Friday morning power remained to be restored.

They assumed the Russian joint stock society United Power System moved to punish the Chechen Republic for its failure to square a 12.5-billion ruble debt for electrical power and an 8-billion ruble debt for the delivery of natural gas.

Electricity Supply to Chechnya Normal

LD2204162994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1306 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Apr—Supplies of electricity from Russia to Chechnya have not been halted. Electricity is being supplied to Chechnya as before, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by Fedor Morozov, head of the central control room of the Yedinaya Energosistema Rossii Russian shareholding company. He said 50 MW of electricity is reaching Chechnya from Russia hourly.

Russian power engineering people did not register any alterations to these parameters today. Fedor Morozov thinks that it is so far impossible to understand the reason behind the recent reports that electricity supplies to Chechnya were cut off, since at about 1100 Moscow Time the central control room's communications with Chechnya went down and it has not been found possible to restore them. It cannot be ruled out that several customers may have been cut off, but a decision of this kind could only have been made by Chechnya's local power grid.

Moscow Signs Cooperation Treaty with Dagestan

PM2504093794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS column: "Moscow Extends Hand"]

[Text] An agreement on cooperation in the economic, scientific, technical, and sociocultural spheres has been concluded between the governments of Dagestan and Moscow. The agreement was signed during the course of a visit here by a delegation from the Russian capital headed by Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

The delegation visited a number of cities in the republic, familiarized itself with the economy, toured construction projects, and visited the Caspian "Dagdizel" Plant, where a discussion was held on the enterprise's potential, the problems of conversion, and opportunities for cooperation with Moscow plants.

Kuzbass Authorities Sign Treaty on Accord

PM2504093394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 2

[Viktor Kostyukovskiy report: "Kuzbass: From Strikes to Constructive Actions"]

[Text] Kemerovo—A. Tuleyev, chairman of the Kemerovo Oblast Legislative Assembly, and M. Kislyuk, head of the oblast administration, have signed a treaty on accord and joint actions.

Strictly guided by Russia's Constitution and laws and the oblast's legislative acts, and steadfastly observing the principle of the separation of powers, they have agreed to be guarantors of accord and constructive activity in the Kuzbass, help boost the revenue section of the oblast budget, and pursue a coordinated social policy. The struggle against crime and corruption is regarded as one of the main areas of joint activity. Paragraph 11 of the treaty is highly indicative in this regard: "In criticism of one another, to strive to be completely proper and constructive and to prevent the use of information based on conjecture and rumor."

The heads of the authorities have urged the Kuzbass population to civil peace and accord which, as the document says, "will make it possible to transform the region from 'striking Kuzbass' into 'creative Kuzbass'."

But what about the responsibility for observing the spirit and letter of the treaty? "At the moment it is moral and ethical," M. Kislyuk acknowledged. Meanwhile, the mechanism of responsibility for the treaty and documents to develop it in the future will have to be elaborated by the oblast Legislative Assembly.

It is well known that A. Tuleyev and M. Kislyuk, men of differing and in some ways diametrically opposed political views, opposed each other most strenuously on virtually all matters of principle in the recent past, a time characterized by a fierce struggle between the two branches of power. However, approximately a year ago they agreed to work together in all the main areas where they have common viewpoints and to seek compromises in those areas where they do not—without abandoning their political standpoints. Thus the present treaty is not a sensation but rather a further development of that policy.

General Says Pacific Border District Combat-Ready

LD2504065494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0630 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Vinogradov and Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok April 25 TASS—The commander of Russian border troops, Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev, completed an inspection tour of Russian Pacific frontiers. After his visit to Sakhalin, Kamchatka and the maritime territory, he firmly said that Russian border guards are fully combat-capable.

Nikolayev held consultations with maritime territory head Yevgeniy Nazdratenko on strengthening cooperation between border troops and civil population to guard natural resources.

Nazdratenko stressed at the meeting that it is high time to put an end to the pillage of the Russian Far East: Chinese poachers rapaciously pick up jinseng in the Ussurian Taiga, while Japanese, Polish, Chinese, North and South Korean fishermen illegally fish in the Russian sea economic zone.

However, the first days of the poach-control dragnet have shown that, apart from foreigners, Russian fishermen are also guilty of rapacious attitude to natural resources. The coastguard service detained several Russian ships which had no fishing licences.

Nikolayev departed for Khabarovsk on Monday.

Parliamentary Elections Unnecessary in Cherkessk

LD2404200194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1944 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Cherkessk April 24 TASS—Elections to the people's assembly of the North Caucasian republic of Karachayevo-Cherkessiya, scheduled for Sunday, became unnecessary. The People's Assembly, which was designed to radically transform the republic's legislative power, has been already formed: This name was assumed by the republican parliament under a decision taken by its session.

Official elections to the People's Assembly will be held after Karachayevo-Cherkessiya passes its constitution. It is to be drafted by the National Council and then submitted for the people's discussion.

The same decision by the parliament made unnecessary a republican referendum also scheduled for Sunday. Put to people's vote was the question about the need for presidency in Karachayevo-Cherkessiya. When passed, the constitution will solve this problem.

Primarily, the decision to hold elections to the People's Assembly and a referendum in the republic was taken by the republican parliament last year. But then it was revised at the initiative of the republic's major political parties and mass movements which decided that it would be difficult to build truly effective bodies of government without a constitution.

By-Election to Altay Local Legislature Valid

LD2404141294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Pavlov]

[Text] Barnaul April 24 TASS—Elections to the local legislative assembly were rerun on Sunday in nine constituencies of the Altay territory in southern Siberia.

As of 18:00 local time, turnout in the town of Rubtsovsk made up 34 per cent, in the regional capital Barnaul—28 per cent and in the city of Biysk—27 per cent. Thus, all 50 deputies have been already elected to the local legislature, and today's polls can be declared valid.

Plans To Build Strategic Port on Gulf of Finland

LD2404013894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Krupenik]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 23 Apr—The project to build a port in the Ust-Luga firth certainly is in line with Russia's national interests and fully meets the economic needs of the Russian Federation, said Yevgeniy Fedorov, chairman of the State Duma Security Committee, at today's parliamentary hearings in St. Petersburg. Leading experts of the State Duma and of the Leningrad Oblast government, representatives of design bureaus, and environmental and financial organizations took part in these hearings on the construction of a major port complex in the Russian northeast.

Speaking of the economic importance of the new port, experts recalled that due to the absence of communications networks allowing a quick access to wold markets, $16 billion that could be earned through exports are being "mothballed."

Ilya Baskin, chairman of the bord of directors of the Ust-Luga joint-stock society, told ITAR-TASS that the project's total cost is $2 billion and that the port will be built within five to six years. He said that the society is now actively establishing the environmental monitoring system, building a complex of water- cleansing and environmentally safe installations, creating a network of mobile facilities for industrial waste disposal, and building housing for specialists.

The deputies' corps approved, by and large, the project to build the port in the Ust-Luga firth of the Gulf of Finland. The joint- stock society Ust-Luga has been advised, however, to take notice of all possible environmental consequences of this human intervention into this region of Russia's maritime northwest.

Chuvashia President Announces Reform Program

LD2304140894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1307 GMT 23 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentina Ivanova]

[Text] Cheboksary April 23 TASS—President of Chuvashia, a republic in the Volga region, Nikolay Fedorov, announced on Saturday his programme of popular reform in the republic.

The programme prioritises steady state support for manufacturers and small businesses, effective investment policy and establishment of an economic and social infrastructure.

Fedorov believes that the implementation of his programme will hinge on "professional cooperation with the federal authorities of the Russian Federation," Russian constituent republics and CIS states, as well as neighbouring regions and all ethnic communities living inside and outside Chuvashia.

Tatarstan Parliament Voids Yeltsin Land Edict

MK2304104594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed POSTFACTUM report: "People's Assembly 'Has Canceled' the Russian Federation President's Edict"]

[Text] Yesterday a session of the Tatarstan People's Assembly Presidium promulgated a statement adopted by parliament which rules null and void Boris Yeltsin's edict On Regulating Land Relations and Promoting the Agrarian Reform in Russia, because, according to the People's Assembly, this edict "is effectively tantamount to occupation and enslavement of peoples."

Modernization of Petersburg Airport Completed

PM2204141194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 1

[Sergey Krayukhin report: "Modernized Pulkovo-2 Airport Up to International Standards"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—The modernization of Pulkovo-2, Russia's second airport in terms of importance and size, is complete.

The cost of the work, which began four years ago, has been estimated at $14 million. The modernization of the airport and its terminal was paid for by the "Pulkovo" aviation enterprise, which did not take a single kopek from the city budget. The modernization of Pulkovo-2 will make it possible not only to improve the quality of passenger services but also considerably to increase the airport's handling capacity. St. Petersburg now has direct flights to 27 cities in Europe and can cope with a maximum of 5 million passengers a year. Meanwhile the airport's increased capacity will be sufficient for three years. The construction of Pulkovo-3, a major new airport on the banks of the Neva, will begin in 1997.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Phone-In 23 April

LD2304185494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 23 Apr 94

["At the Crossroads of Opinion" live phone-in with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, moderated by Viktoriya Popovych and Vadym Zadorozhnyy]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

[Popovych] We will begin our conversation with the president by analyzing the economic situation in Ukraine, for the economic situation directly affects the political situation in our state. And so, Leonid Makarovych, the state of Ukraine's economy at the moment when it acquired independence and today, and the objective and subjective factors, which have affected and are affecting our economy, please.

[Kravchuk] Well, if one is to compare the figures, then naturally the state of the economy on the day of independence was better than today. But those were different economies—the one on the day of independence and today's economy. There was the economy of the post-Soviet period. It has not exhausted precisely these features even now.

But the shoots of a new economy, a market economy, are now beginning to appear. They are appearing everywhere—in industry, in the agrarian sector, in construction. That is, a new structure is now emerging. Proprietors are emerging. And the reform of the economy into a market one is proceeding gradually. It is difficult, but it is proceeding. Naturally this process of transition from one economy to another one cannot be painless or easy, therefore, the level of the decline of production naturally is great, that is, if one is to look only at the process.

But there are subjective factors, as you rightly say. These are Ukraine's great dependence on energy-carriers, which have increased by tens, hundreds, thousands of times recently, I mean the prices. There is the problem of management. There is the problem of personnel. There is the problem of the purely functional dependence of our economy on the economies of other states of the former Soviet Union. There are links that truly cannot be in the same mode as they were in before. They should change. They should improve. They should acquire an entirely different substance and nature, not centralized or administrative, but namely the search for the best paths, the best way out of the situation.

And we already see, although it is too early yet to speak of some sort of successes, but there are already, well, say, some kind of healthy processes too. The rate of inflation has decreased. Even the price of the consumer basket has decreased somewhat. That is, well, there are complex processes proceeding in parallel with the birth of the new. This is the singularity we have today.

[Popovych] Yes, Supreme Council chairman Ivan Plyushch gave these figures at the final sitting yesterday. He gave them and spoke of the decline in production too. He cited (?43) percent and at the same time these positive points—the increase in the containment of hyperinflation from (?191) percent in December of last year to (?5.7) percent in March this year. Retail prices—we have noticed this too—have not been rising recently, and have been decreasing for some goods. And this is the question: Can one explain this by the fact that the deputies of the previous convocation were busy with the election campaign, did not assemble for plenary sittings, while the government and the president had the chance to work and conduct measures planned by themselves, and there was no one to block them?

[Kravchuk] Well, I would not say this, but one thing that is well-known: that when the parliament is engaged in its affair, the government in its affair and the president in his affair, that is not verbally, but realistically, [words indistinct], the result is better, and there is no doubt that when deputies assemble, say, or assembled, instead of elaborating normal, (?say) necessary laws, legislative acts, normative acts, were reduced to hearing about and studying, say, the situation, and it was difficult to take realistic steps to improve the situation—this was (?not) reflected in the government's work, undoubtedly, but I cannot say this was the result of the Supreme Council not assembling.

[Passage omitted] I can stress that the vigor, purposefulness, and energy of the government administrative structures are now directed precisely at overcoming the economic crisis. This is true.

[Popovych] Please tell us, then, does this period of stabilization—the beginning of stabilization—signify that Ukraine is now approaching the peak, the culmination, and that a levelling out will begin now, that we will go up?

[Kravchuk] Well, I would like to think, just like you, and I hope that it will happen namely like this, if we do not shake up, say, the political situation in the country, if we do not stir up differences, if that for which we are calling all the time, both the Supreme Council and the president—for national accord, for civic reconciliation, for unity around lofty aims, around lofty tasks—statehood, independence, the market economy, democracy—if we have all this, then I hope that the next parliament, which will assemble with these tasks, and if we all work, work together energetically, then this beginning can then become some kind of course, some kind of stable course towards overcoming the crisis.

[Zadorozhnyy] So that you can again convince us, and possibly our listeners, that this stabilization is nevertheless an objective process and, thanks to the efforts of our government officials, deny this assertion by some specialists, who believe that the containment of inflation is a consequence of nonpayments, that is neither the producers or consumers have any money, and that a new inflationary spiral supposedly awaits us in the middle of May when the monetary printing press will be started up again, and another monetary emission will take place.

[Kravchuk] Well, you know, here one has to take account of the fact that money is not given, but earned. I know that many producers are making their products for the warehouse. There are trillions of karbovantsi worth of products in warehouses at present. [passage omitted]

But if a commodity is needed, if a cheap quality product is made, then it will always find a consumer in a market environment. Therefore, money cannot be issued for, say, unearned goods, unfinished (?poor-quality) goods. Then it is clear that the monetary and payments crisis is also explained by the fact that namely these market mechanisms have not been elaborated yet—demand, the consumer's possibilities, the producer's possibilities, the production structure, the consumption structure, the balance of payments, the cash possibilities of Ukraine and directly of consumers, and producers, I mean producers and consumers as people who consume food products, for example, every day, or other domestic products. Time is needed for all of this. Therefore, clearly if some people want to throw unearned money into production, or into indexation, or to add trillions to circulating assets, then clearly inflation will creep upwards, because there can only be and should only be as much money as goods produced.

[Popovych] Leonid Makarovych, tell us, please, some people in Ukraine, most of all, for example, members of the Hrynyov-Kuchma Interregional Bloc of Reforms assert that all our economic setbacks can only be overcome by renewing economic ties with Russia. But will the unification of two exhausted paupers do much good? For example, we know it from the Ostankino TV programs that large enterprises are coming to a halt in Russia, such as ZIL [Likhachev automobile works], a large harvester plant was mentioned, oil wells are standing idle, andmachinery does not go to the fields.

[Zadorozhnyy] In the same manner, they are not paying producers.

[Popovych] People are failing to receive their wages for several months. So how shall we unite and renew these relations? What will they give us?

[Kravchuk] Here we should look at the problem as follows: the production and market relations within the framework of the CIS are necessary and I do not want anyone to doubt this. They are necessary, because the CIS market is so far a determining market for us. Not the European market, but CIS. We have not yet approached the European market and have not entered it seriously, structurally. Although, steps have been made, and what is more, significant steps. However, when they talk about renewing ties, there is a detail which needs to be explained. I can show it to you on one example only.

There is a missile-carrying ship in Nikolayev called the Varyah. As far as I remember, approximately more than 1,500 enterprises of the former USSR were building it, I have in mind its components. Now, when we offered Russia to renew the construction of this ship and then dispose of it appropriately, this has already become impossible for objective reasons, because as many as nearly 500 enterprises, which had been earlier working for this ship, ceased to exist as such. And the same happens in every industry.

Rather complicated processes are under way. Enterprises are being closed down, new enterprises and production shops, which manufacture new products, are commissioned. Then how can we renew in full measure the ties without taking into account the situation which has already taken shape. If someone wants to renew the ties in full measure, this means to renew the Soviet Union in full measure, to renew the planned-centralized economy in full measure, in other words, to renew everything as it was before. But this is just impracticable. This is why I am talking not about the renewal but about the development and expansion of ties on the new principles, in accordance with the market situation. Because, if Russia goes further on along the road of market and we will be lagging behind, it will become just impossible to renew these ties on the new principles.

I am speaking not only about Russia, but about other countries as well. That is to say, one should approach this issue in concrete, not general terms. If the idea is to establish economic ties of the new nature and new systems, I fully support exactly these ties.

As for the developments in Russia, you see, the situation is complicated everywhere—in Russia, in Belarus, and in Ukraine—because the entire economy is being reformed and its structure altered. Complicated processes are under way. Someone makes it better and someone makes it less good, however, everywhere difficulties are of a broad-scale nature.

[Zadorozhnyy] It happened that there is competition between Ukraine and Russia, in terms of comparisons.

But we have already touched upon the issue of the CIS. On 15 April in Moscow, Ukraine acceded to the CIS economic union as an associate member and signed all the economic agreements.

Mykola Riznyk from Australia wants to know the difference between an associate and full member of the economic union. Is the associate membership of Ukraine in CIS fraught with danger to Ukraine's independence?

[Kravchuk] I will give only one example to answer Mykola Riznyk.

The treaty on the economic union emphasizes that the full members of the economic union cannot accede to other unions. As far as the associate members, they can do so. In other words, Ukraine, in this particular case, is free to accede to the European Union as well, if it is ready for this. By the way, an associate member has more freedom of action and more opportunities as far as international relations with other countries are concerned. But it also has every opportunity to participate, as fully as possible, within the framework of the economic union.

[Popovych] Mr. President, tell me, what advantage does Ukraine have or will it have from being a member of the CIS, from the agreements that have been signed? For example, any commonwealth envisages that its members have certain concessions and advantages. It seems that the

CIS does not have this, because if one takes into account the fact that Russia sells us energy sources at the highest world prices...

[Kravchuk, interrupting] This is an interesting question. It is fairly apt. For example, for there to be competition within the framework of the CIS and for there to be normal conditions, producers should have identical conditions. If, say, a Russian producer buys energy soruces twice as cheaply as a Ukrainian one, then what kind of a free, let us say, free CIS market, with competition on equal terms, can one speak of? This is difficult.

Let us say the same about free trade. It is free when there are no restrictions. But for the time being, Russia has made certain exceptions for itself, for its goods, say, in the document, which we have signed, although it will not come into force tomorrow. And this concerns primarily energy soruces. Thus trade is sort of free, but with certain reservations and certain exceptions. So, this is right.

Take the European Union. There they watch pricing, quotas, customs duties, and such things very closely so that one country does not experience losses from a market that is not regulated or coordinated with other countries. We do not have this yet. This is the main reason for all of these complexities that we have in trade, in settlements, and so on. [passage omitted]

[Popovych] Let us return to the issue of the CIS. Mr. President, the CIS' acquisition of observer status at the United Nations, the desire to acquire this status at the CSCE, the endorsement of a CIS flag and emblem—to me these are all signs of the creation of a state, which, in addition, is, as before, under the aegis of Russia, because Russian representatives occupy almost all of the leading posts in CIS structures, and Russia will continue to be in the chair at sittings until the end of the year. Is this not so? Is this the revival of the old empire or the creation of a new empire with the economic union being used a means to bring CIS countries into this process? Belarus has already made a step into Russia's embrace.

[Kravchuk] Well, the European Union also has its parliament. It has its flag, it has its emblem. It even has certain executive structures. And it does not evoke any doubt in anyone that it is some kind of empire or suprastate. This is not the only point. The point is something else: that only independent states with all of the institutions and attributes of statehood—a currency, a financial and banking system, institutions of power, troops, everything of its own that it can have—should enter a union, any union. And then this problem does not arise.

As far as Belarus is concerned, there is another problem here. Belarus is already going beyond the feature that the European Union has—yes, they are going toward the ECU there, but for the moment each country has its own currency. This is the main thing in economic independence. Their currencies unite Belarus with Russia. Then the problem of integration is considerably deeper. It is so deep that it can then turn into some kind of political, let us say, integrational processes. But this is then the affair of Russia and Belarus. This is their affair.

Ukraine occupies a different position. We occupy the position that every state should have all of the attributes of statehood both in the economy and in policy—in military policy and in international policy. This is the most important thing. And if we have this, if there are no encroachments from anyone on these institutions, then one can enter any union and have any pennants, any flags. They are not state ones. Incidentally, no one endorsed them. They were simply looked at and approved. There was no endorsement and no one put their signatures to this.

[Zadorozhnyy] And in the context of the question put by Viktoriya, the question about unions, what is your attitude to the idea of Kazakhstan's President Nazarbayev of creating a Eurasian union?

[Kravchuk] Well, this is a continuation of the subject. Clearly, Nazarbayev and many leaders of CIS states have a problem with the effectiveness of CIS work. Frankly, We see that it works with a very low coefficient of usefulness. Although I have insisted and insist that it is fulfilling its role, and I am convinced that without the CIS resolving interstate and internal state problems would be even worse. This is a fact.

So, each has ideas about searching for a more effective system. Well, Nazarbayev proposed a Eurasian union. This is the outline of, let us say, the European Union, and I am saying that I do not see any, well, complexities in being able to draw nearer to a closer economic union. This is very important. I am speaking about economic integration. I am not talking about political integration, but for this, it is necessary to draw nearer. It is necessary for the conditions to evolve.

For example, we cannot become a full-fledged member of the European Union at the moment, because neither our economy nor our domestic and other problems are ready to enter into cooperation with them. This is simply unrealistic, and at present, the Eurasian union is simply an idea, but its implementation is simply unrealistic at present. The right conditions have not evolved for this. That is, one has to proceed by stages.

I have said several times and am saying again that Europe was going toward the European Union for more than 35 years after the Rome sitting, in 1957 I think. This is how long it took for you to come to the creation of the European Union. And now take a look at the plan for it. With what tolerance, with what respect, with the confirmation of legal, international and other (?norms) this is being carried out, by means of polls, referendums, and so on. One cannot think thus: heads of state assemble, sign, and then there is a Eurasian or some other kind of union. One has to move toward this.

[Popovych] Well, returning to the issue of flags and emblems, I think that we have already replied to Mr. Oleh Antonyuk from London, Great Britain. Because he is asking: if Ukraine is an associate member, then what are flags, emblems, joint borders and their protection, a joint command, doing there—everything is there, and God knows what else that we do not know about, but it has already been written down and signed by you. He is addressing you here.

[Kravchuk] We did not say anything about flags. Neither did we talk about joint borders. We talked only about joint protection of borders. That is, where there are borders, for example, between Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, we signed a declaration, a document, on cooperation between our border troops to protect the borders, and not on joint borders.

[Zadorozhnyy] I think that Boris Yeltsin [word indistinct] at a news conference, perhaps mistakenly. He said that namely joint borders had been agreed on.

[Kravchuk] Well, it was probably a mistake. The document says that the three of us—Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus—signed a declaration—what is it called—a memorandum on joint protection of common borders—that is, common ones where we come into contact with each other and not joint ones as such. For example, the border between Ukraine and Russia. It is a common border for the two of us. This means that its joint protection is the cooperation of border troops, and not that there is no Ukrainian border at all or there is no Russian or Belarusian border.

[Zadorozhnyy] Mr. President, another listener wants to put a question to you. We are listening. Speak, please.

[Sayuk] Yuriy Sayuk from Bavaria speaking. Mr. President, I have two questions. The first question: the existence of the state of Ukraine depends on energy resources. However, the terminal has not been built yet, the Arab and Iranian possibilities have not been fulfilled. [words indistinct] (?helplessness). This is the first question.

The second question concerns [passage indistinct]. Esteemed Leonid Makarovych, I would like your guidance. Where is the limit to accommodation? You have already partly touched on the matter. But I am interested in the issue of joint communications, joint citizenship, language, and suprastate structures. And another thing, has the older brother [Russia] in the friendship of peoples, and Slavic ones too, handed over anything from joint property abroad for Ukraine's embassies and missions yet? Thank you for your attention.

[Kravchuk] With regard to the terminal, this issue has already been presented for practical resolution. There are firms ready to begin implementing it. And we are also conducting business talks with Turkey on constructing part of a pipeline, approximately 300 kilometers long, which should transport, say, some part, some amount I would say, of oil and energy sources to Ukraine, to the Black Sea, and maybe to Europe. So this issue is being resolved.

I would simply like to remind you that issues of such a large scale, which you mentioned, are not resolved so easily, especially as Ukraine does not have its own currency [as heard]. It has to search for such firms and forms of cooperation so as to attract funds from elsewhere. One has to bear this in mind, because our desires and our possibilities very often do not coincide.

Now, regarding the older brother. There is a certain exaggeration. I have said and say that fate has dealt with us in such a way that we live in friendship and equal partnership with Russia. History has not given us another way, because to have such a large neighbor and not to find cooperation with him, not to find accord with him, not to find understanding with him on any issues, equality above all, I stress, partnership, would constantly threaten Ukraine's statehood and independence. We, you, are doomed by history to act namely thus. If someone thinks that there is another way, exacerbation of the situation with Russia, this way will not lead to the normal development of Ukraine, and not only Ukraine. It is even about wider problems, problems of a European and world scale. That is why we will act precisely in this way.

[Zadorozhnyy] Mr. President, Mr. Yuriy Sayuk also had a question concerning the Arab-Iranian agreement and the former USSR property abroad. But, please, be brief because other listeners are waiting.

[Kravchuk] There are examples. I am just not ready now to speak from memory. I did not know what questions I would have to answer. There are examples of Russia enabling us to use the premises abroad for our embassies and consulates. Of course, we make appropriate payments for the rent. This is true. However, at the official level, let us say, at the interstate level, this issue has not yet been solved. There are many problems here.

As far as the Arab project is concerned, I have already said that we link all the issues pertaining to the construction of the oil pipeline with Turkey. [passage omitted: caller from UK asks whether people of Ukrainian descent who live in the UK have the right to Ukrainian citizenship. Kravchuk explains that only persons who arrive in Ukraine for permanent residence can obtain Ukrainian citizenship]

[U.S. caller Filimonchuk] Highly esteemed Mr. President, I have three questions. The first one is this: It was a fatal mistake to recognize Crimea, to grant Crimea autonomy. How is Ukraine, the Government of Ukraine going to get out of that situation [words indistinct]?

The second question: Why was former Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov dismissed? Why was he not appointed to the post of prime minister?

The third question: Why is Ukraine procrastinating with the introduction of the hryvna into the Ukrainian monetary system? Thanks.

[Kravchuk] As far as the autonomy of Crimea is concerned, if we regard ourselves as a democratic and law-governed state, then the expression of people's will is a norm for all the civilized states as far as their desire to have any structure is concerned.

A referendum was held in Crimea that showed that the majority of the population of Crimea expressed its will that Crimea should become an autonomous republic. This is the first thing. The second thing is that the decision was made at the time when the Soviet Union was still in existence. If we, for example, had ignored the will of the people of Crimea, something different could have happened. The USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Congress of People's Deputies could have solved this issue without any, let us say, major consent on the part of Ukraine. The USSR, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union were still in existence then, and you know how things were done then. Then we could have lost Crimea, let us say, as a result of a decision by the USSR Supreme Soviet which was empowered to solve these issues. If, for example, any documents were required on the part of Russia and Ukraine, these could become available because at that time, I repeat this, there was no independent state here, at that time it was still the USSR.

As far as Kostyantyn Morozov is concerned, this is the post which is approved by the Supreme Council of Ukraine. I submitted Morozov's candidacy request to the Supreme Council of Ukraine to be appointed defense minister. However, Kostyantyn Morozov came to me and asked me to withdraw his candidature for the post of defense minister. He explained this by the fact that the Supreme Council would not support him. Therefore, I withdrew his candidature at his own request.

Third, as far as the hryvna is concerned, a stabilization fund is required to introduce the hryvna. At present, we are carrying out intensive, active work with the IMF and with the World Bank so that they would give us a stabilization currency fund for the introduction of the hryvna. If such a fund becomes available we shall be able to introduce the hryvna with the hope of real success and without apprehension of possible inflation. If there is no stabilization fund...[pauses] and inflation may lead to great damage, to grave losses, and to removing strong, authoritative currency—the Ukrainian hryvna—from the agenda.

[Belgian caller Omelyan Koval] [passage omitted] My second question deals with the sovereignty of Ukraine and the inviolability of its territory stemming from international agreements. It is known that Russia is trying to keep the Crimean shores for its Black Sea Fleet. How does this conform with the principle of independence of the state and inviolability of its borders?

The third issue deals with foreign trade and export of state and private property worth billions of dollars beyond the borders of Ukraine at a time when only a small part of its value returns to Ukraine, and the rest is replenishing private bank accounts. What has been done by the government to make these billions return to Ukraine and help stabilize its own currency and its convertibility?

[Kravchuk] [Passage omitted] Concerning the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea and how this conforms with Ukraine's sovereignty: Well, you see, there are two aspects of this problem. There were many countries where the U.S. Navy was based; however, this did not endanger the sovereignty of the countries concerned. This is the first thing.

Second. We should take realities into account. If Russia has relevant bases today for its Black Sea Fleet in Crimea, Sevastopol, and so on, one cannot make Russia leave these bases by force. We have to agree with Russia by signing relevant agreements, relevant documents which would deal with the leasing, let us say, of the bases on the territory of Crimea for a certain period of time, until this issue is solved on a widescale basis. That is to say, I would not like this to be closely linked with sovereignty. The main thing is how to solve the issue, on what principles. Second, is there a possibility today of solving this issue any other way? I, for example, do not see such a way. Those who think that it can be solved by means of, let us say, diktat or the use of any sanctions or force must see that this is impracticable today. We have to solve this issue in accordance with realities.

On foreign trade, you are right to say that part of the money, I just do not know what part—unfortunately I do not have the figures which are available to you—billions or any other figure—but I also know that part of the money fails to return to Ukraine. There are two ways here: an administrative one, that is, the implementation of such measures as, let us say, blocking the borders, perhaps, to take some other measures—however, in a democratic society this way is doomed to failure, after all—and another way is to create prerequisites in Ukraine for investments. When we have convertible currency, when we have the right conditions for investment, when we have the right conditions for trade, the commodity producers or private individuals will have no desire to transfer money from Ukraine, but will be interested in investing the money in Ukraine, because here it will give better results and yield higher profits. That is to say, we must approach the situation in exactly this way. We are moving in this direction step by step. [passage omitted on use of Ukrainian language in parliament]

[U.S. caller Stovbunenko] [Passage omitted] Will Ukraine reserve the right to have its own nuclear weapons for self-defense?

[Kravchuk] [passage omitted] As far as nuclear weapons are concerned, I would like you to understand that today Ukraine cannot maintain nuclear weapons for objective, subjective and any other reasons. It inherited these nuclear weapons, although it has neither scientific nor technical servicing ... [pauses] Ukraine has no structures whatsoever to manufacture, service, and equip nuclear weapons. This is why nuclear weapons here in Ukraine could even endanger Ukraine itself, and not only Ukraine, rather than protect it, if there is no possibility to maintain, equip, service, test and manufacture them.

In this case this is a dangerous weapon on the territory of the state and we proceed exactly from this fact. Meanwhile, to build all this Ukraine would need hundreds of—I emphasize this—billions of dollars. And we are now looking for at least one billion. This is why we are acting in line with our possibilities. But this does not mean that we are not looking for the other ways toward consolidating defense capacity and ways to use such a weapon which will be highly effective, although non-nuclear. Like all other countries we are looking for exactly these ways.

[Zadorozhnyy] [Passage omitted] Of late, there has been a tendency for the left- wing forces to return to power in countries where parliamentary elections have been held. Ukraine has not been an exception. However, if the return of the left-wingers in other states means, well, a change in the economy or in foreign policy, Ukraine may even face the danger of losing its independence.

As has been reported, in the near future you are supposed to meet Petro Symonenko, the leader of the Ukrainian communists. What are you going to clear up first and foremost during this meeting?

[Kravchuk] I have already met Petro Symonenko. We discussed issues of interest, it seems to me, for both the left-wingers and the right-wingers and for the centrists; in other words, issues of our state's independence, development of market relations, development of normal, good-neighborly relations with the CIS countries, and not only the CIS countries. In other words, we discussed a whole range of issues.

It seems to me that the communist leader understands the situation and I did not feel, I say this sincerely, that he had any thought of casting doubt on the independence of our Ukraine. He doubts the way toward, let us say, this independence. This is connected, above all, with the economy and with the social protection of people. This was the keynote. I put questions straightforwardly to receive straightforward answers. If they are sincere, well, I hope they are, there was no indication that the left-wing forces in parliament would immediately raise the question of Ukraine's independence or dependence, or whatever you may call it. It is impossible today to assess the left-wingers in a negative way only and, let us say, the right-wingers in a positive way only. The left-wingers are not a homogeneous mass, excuse me for the word mass, the same as the right-wingers. Life is much more complicated than just labelling this or that deputy either a left-winger or a right-winger. [passage omitted]

[Popovych] Mr. President, I will put several questions all at once, as a listener has now broached this subject. We have had very many calls to the editorial office during the week, ahead of this program, on this subject—that is, presidential elections. The first question I will put to you is: Are you thinking of putting forward your candidacy for president for the next term? That question is from Vasyl Semak from England. He also expressed the view that presidential elections should not be allowed this year at any cost, because, according to him, Kuchma will get in and it will be worse. Vasyl Semak from England thinks this. Also Mykola Lazarenko from England. Highly esteemed Mr. President, can a person with a very limited knowledge of the Ukrainian language be nominated as candidate for president of Ukraine—I mean Leonid Kuchma. If in mockery of the Ukrainian nation a Russian-speaking president is elected, then is there a danger that he will appeal to his northern fellow Russian-speakers to defend him.

Vyacheslav Dymovyy, a lawyer from Moscow and a Ukrainian. This is a slightly different question. Mr. Kravchuk, do you accept the appearance of Kuchma as your mistake? Is Kravchuk intending to bear responsibility for the fact that he will leave the post of president without a struggle? [passage omitted]

[Zadorozhnyy] To complete this group of questions, for the listeners are listening, they put questions to us before the program, and naturally they are checking to see if their questions are going to be heard. This is also on the same subject. This is from Vasyl Kucherenko, from Toronto, Canada. Mr. President, is it expedient at the current stage—when Ukraine is only just becoming consolidated in the international arena, constructing its own policies and economy, resolving domestic and foreign issues and issues of the social system and government, forming a new multiparty parliament, and does not yet have a legal constitutional court or an approved basic law, Ukraine's constitution—to elect a new president, spending a total of 1.618 trillion karbovantsi on this, plus 462-billion karbovantsi on run-off voting? Mr. President, you took upon yourself the heaviest burden and responsibility for the fate of independent Ukraine and of the Ukrainian people at the most difficult time for Ukraine, in December 1991. Can individual little groups, little parties, and collectives or associations decide whether to elect or not to elect a popular president? Only the whole Ukrainian people can elect you or show no confidence in you.

[Kravchuk] Well, I want to answer briefly with certain theses. In Ukraine too at present there is also the opinion among deputies of all levels and among collectives that the election of a president at the present time is premature, (?but) no one is raising the issue of elections of a president in general, whether preterm or new elections, although our Constitution does not envisage preterm elections. The preterm suspension of powers following a referendum is envisaged.

But the new Supreme Council has to decide this. I am inclined to think that the Supreme Council cannot remain outside this important question. I have had meetings with deputies, with leaders of parties and forces, and have said that if the the old Supreme Council of that convocation adopted such a law under pressure of, say, and under certain conditions, then the new Supreme Council, which will take over responsibility for four years, should express its attitude, whether it confirms or whether it does something else. But it cannot remain outside this issue.

I have to appeal to the new Supreme Council with a request to express its attitude toward the election of both the president and local bodies of power. If the Supreme Council is inclined to this, well, it will be up to the Supreme Council.

[Zadorozhnyy] Do we understand that your stand concerning yourself as a candidate to run in the coming presidential election remains unchanged?

[Kravchuk] You see, if I join these election processes today, at once, without knowing the Supreme Council's clearly expressed opinion, this means that I am inclined to and I take part in the election which is not envisaged, let us say, in a full-fledged, full-blooded manner, either by the constitution or by all our legitimate laws. In other words, I cannot agree to this today. However, if the Supreme Council clearly expresses its opinion of the status and confirms, at least by constitutional majority, or simple majority or in any other way, its attitude toward this, then I will be able to say about this more distinctly. Now, at this stage, I cannot say anything else. [passage omitted on Moscow listener's comments establishing he is on air]

[Unidentified Moscow caller] I am very indignant at yesterday's statement on Ostankino television by Mr. Grachev regarding Ukraine's Navy and its location. I would like to hear from the president what his attitude to this is.

[Kravchuk] Regarding the issue with Russia, I cannot see any other way of reaching agreement than by adopting the principles of legality, recognized by the international community, and settling this issue. As for the details, they always are...[pauses] one side is saying one thing—a Russian minister can say one thing and a Ukrainian one will tell you another, but this does not mean that what ministers are saying is objective truth, let us say, subject to no appeal, as this is a very complex and large-scale problem. We are to settle this issue conclusively with the president of Russia and the government of Russia, and this is what we shall do.

I would only like these problems not to be exacerbated prematurely on the basis of some preliminary talks and meetings between ministers and delegations or to be interpreted as the Ukrainian president's position. This is searching for ways, while the Ukrainian president has expressed his position. It is that we shall support Russia's interest in having a Russian naval base in Sevastopol. We shall back, shall we say, Russia's position on the use of the infrastructure that there is and the accords that exist between Ukraine and Russia—the four documents signed in Yalta, Zavidovo and, let us say, Moscow and Massandra—for everybody after all to get together and settle this issue.

However, no one—neither Ukraine nor Russia—can enforce diktat or a unilateral wish or unilateral advantages. This is a complex problem which should be tackled wisely and calmly in order not to fall out or conflict.

[Zadorozhnyy] In that case, can it be understood that the next stage of negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet and its division will now be tackled by both presidents directly, that of Ukraine and that of Russia?

[Kravchuk] At any rate, today I had a conversation with the leadership of Russia. I talked with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin. I offered to meet him, now either at governmental or presidential level, with appropriate ministers and experts seated at our side, and make a decision, because this is the issue that will not be settled by ministers. This is to be settled by the presidents and governments. Documents and estimates, however, are of course to be produced by specialists, including military specialists, but this is not the issue that can be settled by military ministers.

I just would not like any, let us say, far-reaching conclusions to be made yet on the basis of the meeting in Crimea that was held. It was difficult, it was not easy and there is no need to investigate now who is right and who is not—especially on the basis of speeches by ministers and their meetings with journalists. This, I would like to repeat, cannot be done. This is only searching for ways rather than resolving the problem conclusively. The final settlement of the issue is up to the presidents.

[Popovych] Mr. President, the situation has become so aggravated. Please tell us: Can such a situation arise—I will repeat this—in which Ukraine will have to turn to international organizations or seek participation of such countries as, for example, the United States of America in the solution of this issue?

By the way, there was a news item saying that the U.S. side expressed its readiness to help resolve the Crimean issue.

[Zadorozhnyy] [word indistinct] concerning nuclear disarmament.

[Kravchuk] This is a matter of a specific nature. Nuclear states.... [changes thought]. For example, why was the United States involved in this situation? Because an agreement on nuclear arms reduction was signed between the USSR and the United States of America. We also inherited the treaty that was signed, and we are now responsible for it. So, the participation of the United States here is logical, and not just logical but also concrete.

As far as the Black Sea Fleet is concerned, I believe we must resolve this issue with Russia, and I am convinced that we will resolve it.

[Zadorozhnyy] Were there any statements concerning a third party? Because a statement by President Boris Yeltsin's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov has already become available to us. According to the statement, Yeltsin said the following, in particular: Russia will not allow any outside interference in the resolution of the Black Sea Fleet issue.

[Kravchuk] As far as I know, I have never said this anywhere; neither Yukhym Zvyahilskyy nor Ivan Plyushch have been saying this. Therefore, I do not know the source of this news. I have always said that there is a state policy, and there are opinions of certain political parties and forces. Therefore, if Zhirinovskiy says something, I will not refute him at the state level. I will, however, if Yeltsin says it. I have never said this, and I have never expressed myself in this connection. [passage omitted]

[Popovych] We have received another fax; this one is from Mykola Plavyuk. I do not think it is necessary to explain who Mykola Plavyuk is [former Ukrainian president in exile]. Does the (?experience) of the elections to Ukraine's Supreme Council help in completing work on Ukraine's constitution, and what are the prospects of the Cabinet of Ministers beginning real reform of Ukraine's economy in the very near future under your leadership?

[Kravchuk] With regard to the Constitution, I think that one will be able to speak of the new parliament's real possibilities for starting on the constitution after the additional elections to the Supreme Council have been held. At present, 338 deputies have been elected. It was said at the Supreme Council on 22 April that the authorities of 335 deputies had been confirmed. This number of deputies is evidently insufficient for a constitutional majority, however; that is 300 votes. Therefore, to say now that the Supreme Council can start on the constitution immediately, before the additional deputies are elected, is impracticable. When a full-blooded parliament that represents all of Ukraine and all of its electors is elected, however, I believe that this is the largest and most important task—with which the old parliament did not manage to deal. This was the greatest fault in its work.

As far as the economy about which you speak is concerned, I already said something at the beginning of the program about the fact that some kind of positive, perhaps not processes, but rough outlines—I am saying this very carefully—regarding the economic situation are already taking place. We should begin wide-scale, let us say, privatization of small, medium, and large enterprises. The reforms that will take place to improve banking, credit, and structural reconstruction are all on the agenda. They are not only on the agenda, but in practice are already under way.

[Popovych] Another question on the elections from Yosyp Lesiv from Belgium. Elections to local bodies of power in Ukraine's oblasts and rayons are proposed in conjunction with the new presidential elections. According to my understanding of the current electoral law, the elections to local bodies of power will abolish the institution of presidential missions. As an observer of Ukrainian political life, I believe that Ukraine needs strong executive power now. This is the stand of our listener.

[Kravchuk] Well, I can only perceive this is as a stance, although I have also said this in my domestic usage that the president—if he has powers as head of state and as the executive power—he should also have corresponding powers in the local bodies of power and in the corresponding structures. I am convinced that the Soviet representative form and the presidential executive form do not relate to each other. This is my conviction.

There are also other points of view, but I support the one that says that if the president should have strong authority, then he should have the corresponding strong structures. If the president has representative authority, then he is another type of president. One should even begin to think about how to elect him, when to elect him. Is it necessary for a president with only representative functions to be elected by the public? These are the main problems. Without resolving them, it is difficult to speak of the seriousness of our intentions. [passage omitted]

[Popovych] I have a question, Mr. President. Returning to the Crimea's problems: Yuriy Meshkov himself, the president of the autonomy, is stirring up anti-Ukrainian sentiments in Crimea. His calls on the eve of elections show this. In general, this is some kind of a paradox for the president to call on voters not to vote for deputies to Ukraine's Supreme Council. So do his current decrees on personnel changes in the power department structures—in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the security service. Now he has decided to replace the justice minister. Will new measures be taken, as his decrees have been revoked, as we know. Will new more efficient measures be taken with regard to Meshkov's anticonstitutional actions? Perhaps in connection with this, here is a question from Taras Voytenko from Moscow as to whether there will be political autonomization of the regions in order to avoid conflicts such as in Moldova and Georgia.

[Kravchuk] Well, naturally there is some kind of link here. As far as the decrees by Meshkov are concerned, I have already been saying that all the decrees issued by Meshkov will be rescinded by the president of Ukraine if they violate the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine. This will be done without fail. I am speaking about the economic decrees only. There may be relevant easements in relation to these, because the idea is to give more economic freedom, to apply the Ukrainian president's decree that grants additional opportunities for the economic liberalization of the economy, and so on.

Here we will calculate the situation stemming from this decree and from our laws. Those laws and decrees that contradict our constitutional norms will be rescinded. They mean, as far as I understand, that the more political independence granted to the regions will lead to easing the situation. Well, this is an opinion. I regard Ukraine as a unitarian state today, and there may be some prospects for steps forward in this direction. However, if political autonomy is granted today to all oblasts, if this is what they mean, this could lead to the disintegration—I say this sincerely—of our statehood.

As far as economic autonomies, economic freedoms, as far as the broadest possible freedoms are concerned, I support this. However, any talk about political autonomy is premature.

[Popovych] What do you mean by political autonomy? Do you mean free economic zones in certain regions, or do you mean all of Ukraine somehow?

[Kravchuk] No, this means, for example, oblasts receive great powers, say, in dealing with property and utilizing budgets. More account is taken of their needs and of the sources for covering their expenditures, for example, with regard to issues connected with quotas or restrictions and the possibilities to make use of products to sell in order to replenish hard currency funds. That is quite a lot. I have only named a few points. These are economic freedoms whereby it is not necessary to go to Kiev, to the center, about every little thing. It can be decided there, on the spot.

As far as economic zones are concerned, however, that is another matter. It is envisaged in the law and should be examined in every specific case for each territory. What I said about economic autonomy applies to all territories.

[Popovych] Another listener, Vasyl Semak from Nottingham, Great Britain, asks whether the president believes

Ukraine will survive to the end of your term, because the foreign press writes that Ukraine will be divided.

[Kravchuk] Well, everyone is making predictions. As one says, curse the tongues of those who say this about Ukraine and about its possibilities, and praise God that Ukraine has survived now for two and a half years since independence was declared. It is surviving, working hard, laboriously reaching for economic heights, overcoming crisis, and creating its political institutions and laws. We do not succeed at everything. Not everything is appropriate to our possibilities, as one says. This is true. The foreign press writes what it wants to see, however. We do not want this. We listen to the foreign press and say that you may bark if you really want to bark at Ukraine so much, but the show goes on. [passage omitted]

[Zadorozhnyy] Petro Dyadyk from Poland points out that the anniversary of the deportation of the Crimean Tatars will be commemorated and asks why Poland is silent about the Wisla operation. Presumably, he would like to know Ukraine's position on this.

[Kravchuk] Well, we raised this very issue when I met President Walesa at the parliament during my visit to Poland. We instructed our relevant institutions, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, to study it more and to submit the appropriate adjustments and an appropriate stand on this issue. That is, it has not been left unconsidered. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] You know, I would like to say something else. We often hear on the surface of our statehood, for example, in political circles, at rallies, in squares, and even in the Supreme Council, many words that disturb people because the words are against Ukraine. When I talk to people, however—for example, in collectives, in collectives in the East, in the West, in the South, and in the North—I am even more convinced that the issue of statehood, the issue of independence, is now internally characteristic to our people of all nationalities. This is very important. These years did not pass in vain. [passage omitted]

Goodbye. I wish all of you radio listeners—Ukrainians and non- Ukrainians abroad—good health, happiness, and all good things. [passage omitted]

Country Blames Grachev for Talks Disruption

MK2304072094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Konstantin Parishkura report under the "Fleet" rubric: "Black Sea Fleet Ships Seem To Have Been Divided, But There Is No Room To Put Them"]

[Text] As unofficial sources in Kiev have reported, the signing was expected in Crimea of a treaty on dividing the Black Sea Fleet personnel in service afloat and a protocol on differences in positions of the delegations. According to the Kiev version, the defense minister of Russia did not arrive for the previously agreed meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart and flew to Moscow without explaining the reasons. As one of the members of the Ukrainian delegation stated, Ukraine puts the entire responsibility for the disruption of the talks on Mr. Grachev.

Defense Ministry Ready To Resume Talks

LD2204192794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] On 22 April the Ukrainian Defense Ministry press service issued a statement. It, in particular, says that despite the initially realistic nature of the sides' approaches to the fleet's quantitative indices at the negotiations in Sevastopol, the Russian side was trying to understate the numerical strength of the personnel of the Black Sea Fleet ships by more than two times. A well-reasoned stand of the Ukrainian military allowed to coordinate the quantitative parameters, including the lists of the Black Sea Fleet amphibious means, ships, and vessels that are to become part of the Ukrainian Naval Forces.

At the same time, the problem of the temporary basing of the Russian Navy on the Ukrainian territory failed to be solved, says the statement. The Russian side was insisting that the Russian Navy should be based at all the facilities in Crimea while Ukraine's Naval Forces should be based beyond the borders of the peninsula. The Ukrainian delegation provided a well-reasoned proof of the fact that a functioning naval fleet cannot be created without the Crimean bases. However, Russia's approaches remained unchanged. Moreover, says the statement, showing no wish to pay attention to common sense, to understand the legitimate stand of Ukraine regarding the basing of its own naval forces on its own territory, the Russian delegation terminated the negotiations and disappeared without any explanations.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry press service is authorized to declare that the Ukrainian side regrets such a behavior of the Russian delegation, which does not comply with the norms of the international negotiations ethics.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry places all the responsibility for the breakdown of the negotiations upon the Russian side and reports its readiness to continue the disrupted negotiations at any time.

Rukh Leader Comments on Russian Position

LD2304163494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The Ukrainian fleet is significant and it must be based in Sevastopol, People's RUKh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] leader, Vyacheslav Chornovil, told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

He said if Ukraine had to share with somebody military bases and a part of the fleet this must be carried out under generally recognized international principles.

Chornovil estimated the Ukrainian position at the talks as "the only right one." He considered the conduct of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev as improper. Chornovil said this had once again manifested the "boorishness of a superpower."

He suggested that Russia's position at the talks had reflected its gradual pro-imperial policy.

Given that the U.S. possess "certain influence" and are interested in normalization of Russian-Ukrainian relations the U.S. mediation in settlement of the Black Sea Fleet issue could be useful, Chornovil said.

"Grachev would hardly slam the door if there were a U.S. representative at the talks," Chornovil suggested.

He said in Kravchuk's place he would have addressed the Russian president to make him show "his ministers their place." "A kind of demarche is definitely needed. Such an offense should not be ignored," Chornovil added.

Continuation of Reportage on Black Sea Fleet Talks

Zlenko Warns Talks Could Stall

LD2204104694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Blagov]

[Text] Hanoi, 22 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The presidents of Russia and Ukraine have agreed that a friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries must be drafted in the near future. This was stated in an ITAR-TASS interview today by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko who is paying an official visit to Hanoi. At their meeting in Moscow on 15 April the Russian and Ukrainian presidents instructed their foreign ministers to complete the preparation of the draft treaty. In this connection Leonid Kravchuk invited Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, to pay an official state visit to Ukraine. The invitation was accepted. We hope that the interstate treaty will be signed during this visit, the Ukrainian foreign minister said.

Referring to the talks in Sevastopol between the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers, A. Zlenko stressed that "the decisions adopted at the April meeting of the two presidents must be carried out." The accords already reached on dividing up the fleet and separate basing of the two countries' naval forces must be implemented. By adhering to these accords, without backing away from them, we can make progress toward a solution of the Black Sea Fleet problem. If, however, attempts to reinterpret the decisions made by the two presidents continue, I think we will again find ourselves deadlocked as we try to settle this "extremely complex" question, A. Zlenko noted.

Agreement Reached 'in Principle'

LD2204124894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1227 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sevastopol, 22 Apr—An agreement in principle to divide the Black Sea Fleet was reached today at the talks between the military delegations of Russia and the Ukraine in Sevastopol.

Of the 833 Black Sea Fleet ships and vessels, 669 units will go to Russia, which makes up nearly 85 percent. The Ukrainian side will receive 164 ships and boats. Moreover, proceeding from the previously reached accords, Russia will pay the Ukraine compensation for 255 vessels.

No Agreement Reached on Bases

LD2204131294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sevastopol, 22 Apr—An agreement in principle to divide the Black Sea Fleet was reached today at the talks between the military delegations of Russia and the Ukraine in Sevastopol. They were led by the two countries' defense ministers, Pavel Grachev and Vitaliy Radetskyy.

Of the 833 Black Sea Fleet ships and vessels, 669 units will go to Russia, which makes up nearly 85 percent. The Ukrainian side will receive 164 ships and boats (15 percent). Moreover, proceeding from the previously reached accords, Russia will pay the Ukraine compensation for 255 vessels.

No agreement has yet been reached on the problem of the separate basing of the fleets. Ukraine insists on siting the headquarters of its navy in Sevastopol, and does not rule out the basing of its ships there as well.

Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, stressed that this stance deviates from the agreement signed on 15 April in Moscow by Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk.

The Russian minister declared that it is unlikely that a start can be made on dividing up the fleet without resolving the problem of the separate bases.

Pavel Grachev left Sevastopol for Moscow today.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on 'Difficulties'

LD2204154594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] At the talks in Sevastopol Friday on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, the military delegations of Russia and Ukraine came to an agreement on the Fleet's division. In an exclusive interview to INTERFAX Ukranian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy said that 18.3 percent of the Fleet, or 164 warships and other vessels, are to be handed over to Ukraine.

Radetskyy said that he had reported to President Kravchuk about the decision and the Ukrainian president backed it. Radetskyy said that Russia was ready to pay for the Ukrainian part of the fleet after it was divided 50-50. However, it is up to the governments to decide how payment should be effected, he said.

Radetskyy also said that Russia decided on which ships it needed proceeding from the tasks faced by the Black Sea Fleet. The remaining vessels will be written-off or sold, he said.

Earlier, spokesman for the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, Aleksandr Kluban, told reporters that the split up would affect 833 warships on active duty and 61 reserve ships. Out of this number 18.3 percent or 164 ships will belong to Ukraine. The remaining 31.7 percent of ships out of Ukraine's 50 percent are to be sold to Russia, in line with the earlier agreements.

Ukraine, said the spokesman, proposes that the matter should be settled by the signing of an agreement. The draft agreement is ready and will possibly be signed on 22 April.

Radetskyy said that still unresolved is the issue of bases for the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian naval force. He said that both Ukraine and Russia have proposals on that score. He believes that the delegations should not leave Sevastopol without solving the problem.

Meanwhile, Kluban said that there are difficulties in discussing the issue. Russia proposes to base its fleet at all Crimean bases (Sevastopol, Balaklava, Kerch, Donuzlav and Feodosiya). Moscow is flatly against the deployment of the Ukrainian naval force in the Crimea, said the spokesman. This is unacceptable for us, he said.

The spokesman also said that the Ukrainian leadership will elevate the cash allowance for seamen of the Ukrainian fleet to be equal to that of the Black Sea Fleet officers.

Kluban said that the problems associated with naval aviation were not discussed.

An Interfax correspondent reports from Sevastopol that on Friday, later in the day, the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers, Pavel Grachev and Vitaliy Radetskyy, are to sign an agreement which will fix parameters for the fleet's division. Experts who are drafting the document doubt that the delegations in Sevastopol will manage to solve the issue surrounding bases for the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian naval force.

Kravchuk on Ships in Sevastopol

LD2204164994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk told newsmen after the Ukrainian parliament closed session in Kiev, that both a Russian and Ukrainian presence in Sevastopol offered the best solution for the problem of the Black Sea Fleet.

However, Kravchuk felt the Russian and Ukrainian vessels must use different naval facilities. The Ukrainian fleet could be based in Balaklava.

Kravchuk said he kept in touch with the Ukrainian delegation to the Sevastopol negotiations. He said the Russian and Ukrainian Defense ministers had agreed on a formula for the solution of the existing problems on the basis of the Yalta, Zavidovo and Massandra decisions.

In Kravchuk's view, both the Russian and Ukrainian fleets must make use of Sevastopol's repair docks given that 82 percent of the Black Sea's infrastructure is in that city.

If, however, the two Defense ministers failed to reach agreement, Kravchuk said he would meet to resolve the problem with his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin. The problem of the Black Sea Fleet is to be resolved at any cost, said Kravchuk.

Defense Ministry Releases Statement

LD2204172194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry today denied Moscow's ITAR-TASS report that the position of the Ukrainian side at the negotiations in Sevastopol allegedly did not correspond with the spirit of constructiveness characteristic of the approach of the Russian side to the negotiations, and also that representatives of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and Navy were allegedly trying to disavow the Moscow agreement of 15 April.

The Defense ministry press service also stated that the ITAR-TASS report does not conform to reality and that some of the mass media distorted the undeniable fact that the Black Sea Fleet belongs to two states, rather than to Russia alone.

As for the reference to the fact that the position of the Ukrainian side with regard to a Ukrainian Navy base in Sevastopol contravenes military theory, the Defense Ministry press service is authorized to state that Ukraine has its own military doctrine and follows its requirements aimed at ensuring state independence.

Radetskyy Talks Break Off

LD2204201994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2001 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk—TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol 22 April TASS—Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy described as a complete surprise the behaviour of the Russian defence minister who did not return to negotiations on gradual settlement of the Black Sea Fleet problem after the break.

In the opinion of Radetskyy, the negotiations started rather successfully and the sides reached an essential agreement on the fleet division under which Russia will get over 600 units and ukraine—over 150.

Speaking of basing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy, Radetskyy said the Russian side offered conditions unacceptable for Ukraine, under which all Crimean bases shall be kept by Russia.

He said they are ready to discuss compromise variants and there were no reasons to break the dialogue.

TASS Carries Defense Ministry Statement

LD2304091794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0814 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev 23 April TASS—The press service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry circulated the following statement:

Talks were held between the Ukrainian and Russian military delegations in Sevastopol on 21-22 April. The aim of the talks was to examine issues on the implementtion of the agreement on a gradual settlement of Black Sea Fleet problems, to wit: division of warships and vessels as well as their temporary separate basing.

Guided by a flexible and constructive position and seeking to find a realistic and mutually acceptable solution of existing problems, the Ukrainian side suggested a stage-by-stage approach to their settlement and put forth several possible versions.

Despite the initial considerable difference in approaches of the sides to quantitative indexes of the fleet, the Russian side tried to lessen the Black Sea Fleet's sea-going forces by more than 50 per cent. The substantiated position of the Ukrainian side made it possible to agree all the main quantitative parameters, including the list of Black sea Fleet craft as well as warships and vessels, which should compose a Ukrainian Navy.

At the same time, the sides managed to settle the problem of a temporary base of the Russian Navy on the Ukrainian territory. Guided by the need for disengaging the two countries' fleets, provided for by the Russian-Ukrainian agreement of 1994, the Ukrainian side offered several versions, including separate deployment of the Ukrainian and Russian Navies at various facilities in Sevastopol.

The Russian side insisted that the Russian Navy should be based at all the Crimean facilities, while the Ukrainian Navy—outside the peninsula. The Ukrainian delegation justifiably showed that it is impossible to create a viable Ukrainian navy without Crimean bases.

Nevertheless, Russia's approaches were immutable. Moreover, unwilling to heed common sense and to understand Ukraine's legitimate position concerning the deployment of the Ukrainian Navy on its own territory, the Russian delegation stopped the talks and disappeared without any explanation.

This happened at a time when experts tried to register the approved parameters and provisions which were numerous by that time.

The press service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry expresses regret over the conduct of the Russian delegation, not meeting norms of international negotiating ethics. This is even more deplorable, since real outlines for settling Black Sea Fleet problems became more evident after the last meeting between the Ukrainian and Russian presidents.

The Ukrainian Defence Ministry imposes the entire responsibility for the disruption of the talks on the Russian side and reports its readiness to continue the negotiations at any time.

Kravchuk Refutes Grachev's Statement

LD2504104694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk refuted the statement by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev about the intentions of our state to review the accords on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. The last meeting of the defense ministers of Ukraine and Russia in Crimea was of a working nature and cannot be a final evaluation of the division of the Black Sea Fleet, Leonid Kravchuk told journalists. The statement by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to the Ostankino television company that Ukraine has changed its stand is groundless, he emphasized.

Leonid Kravchuk recalled that in accordance with the Yalta accord the fleet should be divided in half. But, proceeding from the current realities, Ukraine will take only 15-20 percent of the ships. The remainder will go to pay off its debts to Russia.

Touching on the issue of a base for the Russian ships, the president said that he is insisting on their being stationed in Sevastopol. Balaklava could become the base for the Ukrainian Navy. Leonid Kravchuk will defend this proposal at his next meeting with Russia's President Boris Yeltsin.

However, as much as I might respect the defense ministers of the two states, the Black Sea Fleet issue should be resolved by the presidents and governments, Leonid Kravchuk emphasized.

Kravchuk Calls for Top Level Decision

LD2404135794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] President Kravchuk feels the two presidents (Ukrainian and Russian -IF note) with help from their governments will find a solution for the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. Talking to a reporter for INTERFAX-Ukraine in Kiev Saturday, Kravchuk warned against attempts to play up the Defense Ministers' failure to negotiate a solution, in Sebastopol [Sevastopol].

According to Kravchuk, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin agreed in a telephone conversation on Saturday that negotiating teams must prepare appropriate documentation but a political decision will rest with the two presidents.

Kravchuk stressed that a decision on the Black Sea Fleet will not be detrimental to the Ukrainian, Russian and Crimean interests and will meet security interests and encourage cooperation.

Kiev raised no objections to the use of naval facilities in Sebastopol by the Russian Fleet, and the conclusion of separate agreements on the use of facilities in Ketch and Donuzlava.

But, said Kravchuk, Russia cannot have as many as five or six naval facilities in Crimea. With this proviso, there will be no solution to the problem.

It had been decided, Kravchuk said, that the Fleet was fifty percent Ukrainian and the whole world knew that Crimea belonged to Ukraine.

Kravchuk dismissed as hardly serious Crimean President Meshkov's demand for the withdrawal of the Ukrainian troops from Crimea. The whole world recognized Crimea as an integral part of Ukraine, Kravchuk said. Strangely enough, the Crimean president failed to remember that.

Parties Outline Ways To Solve Problems

LD2304161694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The press center of the Black Sea Fleet command declared that in the course of the next round of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet held 21-22 April in Sevastopol the parties "have outlined the ways to solve the problems under discussion." The information of the press center stresses that the participants of the dialogue recognize that "the Black Sea Fleet should not become an apple of discord between the friendly states."

"At the same time we should admit that the position of the Ukrainian party did not meet the spirit of constructiveness with which the Russian delegation has come to the negotiations." "There was an impression that representatives of Ukraine's Defense Ministry and Navy try to disavow the Moscow agreement dated 15 April 1994 another time," says the message.

The press center believes that "the Ukrainian party admits dual interpretation of the provisions of the Moscow agreement on separate basing of two fleets and proportional division of the Black Sea Fleet. To this effect it refers to the fact that as before representatives of Ukraine's Defense Ministry "insist that Ukraine's Black Sea Fleet and Navy should be stationed in Sevastopol." The authors of this document assert that "this contradicts not only to the logic of the military theory but to the will of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents and to the last decisions of the Sevastopol city council of people's deputies."

The document underlines that "the Russian delegation hopes that sound sense would prevail over political ambitions and the negotiations would continue." "The Russian party takes off the entire responsibility for the disruption of a constructive dialogue," declared the press center of the Black Sea Fleet.

Radetskyy 'Cannot Evaluate' Grachev Departure

LD2304162494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1452 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] "As a well brought up person I cannot evaluate the unexpected departure of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev from the talks," Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy stated on Friday at a press conference on the talks between the Ukrainian and Russian delegations concerning the Black Sea Fleet.

He said the defense ministers had agreed to meet at 1500 [1100 GMT]. However, Grachev had not appeared. "He could at least call us and prevent that he would not come," Radetskyy remarked. [sentence as received]

On the question put by INTERFAX-Ukraine, Radetskyy stressed that the Russian proposal to base the Black Sea Fleet in all Crimean ports and the Ukrainian navy in Nikolayev, Ochakov, Odessa or Ismail was unacceptable for Ukraine.

Radetskyy suggested that Ukraine could accept basing in different bays of Sevastopol.

Radetskyy said the delegations had found understanding and worked fruitfully at the talks. He emphasized that the complex issues had been worked on by experts.

Radetskyy was surprised by the statement of Grachev on "seizure" of 126 Black Sea Fleet ships by the Ukrainian Navy. He said the fleet had been divided proceeding from the number of 864 ships registered on August 3, 1992, in accordance with the Yalta agreement.

He refuted the statement of Grachev saying that his position differed from that of the Ukrainian president. Radetskyy said in this case he would have presented a report and would have expressed his disagreement.

Radetskyy pointed out that if the Black Sea Fleet issue was solved, it would let lessen the tension in Crimea and tackle the economic problems. "However, some people find it beneficial to defer settlement of the problem on the Black Sea Fleet," Radetskyy suggested. "I think this time Russia had no desire to resolve the Black Sea Fleet issue," he added.

"It is regrettable that we did not justify the expectations of the presidents. This is to be blamed only on the Russian party," Radetskyy accentuated.

Ukrainian Navy Commander Vladimir Bezkorovaynyy stressed at the press conference that the issue on basing dealt with the infrastructure and "we had been deciding on separation of the fleet ships so necessary during the period of transition and giving such opportunities for maneuvering."

Ukraine has been financing Sevastopol for quite a long time, Bezkorovaynyy said while commenting on the statement of Grachev concerning financing of the Black Sea Fleet by Russia. "This is four times more expensive for Ukraine than for Russia is to finance the Black Sea Fleet," he added.

Kravchuk Comments on Stance

LD2304185394 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Interview with President Leonid Kravchuk by unidentifed correspondent on 23 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Over the last 24 hours the Russian mass media have allowed many various distortions of our state's stance regarding the Black Sea Fleet situation. Therefore, we consider it necessary to explain again what Ukraine's stance really is. Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine's president, was interviewed by Ukrainian television today.

[Correspondent] Leonid Makarovych. Ostankino, let us put it this way, has put into the mouth of its president, Russian Boris Yeltsin, an opinion regarding his consultations with the competent bodies on the Black Sea Fleet situation—dissatisfaction with the Ukrainian side's stance, as if our stance is changing and being interpreted in various ways. However, the delegation at work in Sevastopol presented the stance that was a result of your talks with Boris Nikolayevich.

[Kravchuk] The Black Sea Fleet is an issue of many aspects. You see how long we have been approaching it, even at the presidential level. This meeting in Moscow was the fourth meeting between Ukraine's and Russia's presidents on the Black Sea Fleet.

I have already said that those documents, which we signed in Yalta, Zavidovo, and Massandra, and now in Moscow, as instructions, as a stance, already give grounds to finally resolve this problem. I could never believe that two ministers, with their people, could assemble in Sevastopol and immediately manage to resolve this issue.

They were searches to solve, instruct, and resolve those stances, which had been defined, and not to fully resolve this problem. I am convinced that this problem—I talked to Viktor Chernomyrdin today—can be resolved only at the presidential level. I am always rather afraid of premature evaluations and would not want the work of the two ministers, their meetings and some kind of comments, say, by journalists and so on, to then be presented as a stance. This is a search.

Our stance is a clear one. We want Russia to agree—and I understand that Russia is agreeing to this—to dividing the fleet 50-50 in accordance with the Yalta and Zavidovo agreements. This has been stated in documents. Nobody is proposing anything new. But Ukraine, proceeding then from the current realities of its possibilities and its position, should take 15-20 percent of the ships of the sea-going part of the fleet to resolve its problems. The remaining part, which is left over, is that which is sold to or compensated by Russia, in accordance with the situation, whether for debts or whatever. This is a problem of forms, but this is the position. It seems to me that the ministers did find a solution from this aspect in Sevastopol, as [Defense Minister Vitaliy] Radetskyy informed me.

The second problem is that of basing. I abide by the idea and, in this particular case, support the existing reality; I do not see any other one. The naval base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet is being set up in Sevastopol on universally recognized international principles—the same as they solved Baykonur and others. In other words, there is nothing new about this. These are established, tested, let us say, by the world community. It is not for the first time that this is being done.

As far as the other currently existing bases in Crimea are concerned, for example, Feodosiya, Kerch, Balaklava, Donuzlav... [pauses] it cannot be so that the chief base is in Crimea and then the basing. [as heard] That is to say, [Russia's] stand today, as far as I understand, boils down to the fact that Ukraine must leave Crimea. We say that the base is in Sevastopol and those, let us say, points of current basing can be used by the Russian Navy according to relevant agreements and treaties. In other words, we are not raising the question today that everything must be changed overnight; however, the Russian side, too, must take into account our stand. For example, we receive a certain number of ships. Today officers have their homes in Sevastopol, but we cannot leave the officers, take the ships without the commanders, without the officers and moor them.

It is necessary to tackle this in a civilized manner. One should not take, let us say, any statements proceeding from the meeting of the ministers, and even a minister's reply, or minister's statement, even by such a minister as the defense minister, either Grachev or Radetskyy, as state policy. It seems to me that any statements today are premature. Premature. I have never, and in no place been making any other statements. I have not been making statements to the effect that a third country should help us. As far as I know, this has not been done by any member of the government, neither [Acting Prime Minister] Zvyahilskyy, nor Ivan Plyushch, as the Supreme Council chairman. Who are they talking about? Maybe, some political leader or political party did this? Well, then in Russia political leaders make a lot of statements, but this does not mean they must be refuted at the level of the president. This is a problem... [pauses] When a president or anybody else makes a statement, then this is really a statement on behalf of the state. This is how, I believe, one should approach this.

Tarasyuk Urges 'Third Party' Participation

LD2304165594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] At the negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet the Ukrainian party has done its utmost in order to fulfil the instructions of Ukrainian and Russian presidents, Ukraine's deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk said in his interview with journalists in Kiev.

In his words, Kiev was holding the negotiations "constructively," however, it confronted "inadequate actions of the Russian party."

Tarasyuk said that probably it is necessary to listen to the proposal of Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy and to draw "a third party" to the negotiations, which would help to find a way out.

During a press conference on Friday in Kiev, Ivan Plyushch, speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, also spoke about possible solution of the Fleet's problem with the participation of the US president on analogy with the January tripartite statement on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, was critical of this point of view and declared that Russia would not tolerate any outer interference on the Black Sea Fleet issue.

In any case, Tarasyuk said, the major results of the meeting in Sevastopol is "Russia's return to the concept of the Black Sea Fleet division about which it "forgot" late last year."

He pointed out that Ukraine and Russia "have found consent regarding the starting point while counting the Fleet's ships." Russia and Ukraine also reached a consent concerning the issue what part of the Black Sea fleet would be transferred to Ukraine's Navy.

Unfortunately, Plyushch noted, "we cannot regard as an achievement the unclear departure of the Russian delegation from the meeting and the fact that we have failed to reach an agreement on separate basing of the Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's Navy."

An unexpected departure of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev from the negotiations in Sevastopol arouses only regret, Tarasyuk stressed.

Kravchuk Rejects Third Party

LD2304165494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The problem of the Black Sea Fleet should be solved at the negotiations between Ukraine and Russia without interference of "any third parties," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said in his interview with the World service Radio Ukrainy on Saturday. He emphasized that he had never spoken about participation of any other party in this process.

In Kravchuk's words, during his telephone talk with Viktor Chernomyrdin on Saturday he proposed to the Russian premier "to meet at the governmental level and to solve this problem with the help of experts and ministers."

"The statements voiced by ministers are not obligatory the truth in its final instance," Kravchuk said given various interpretations of the results of the negotiations in Sevastopol presented by Vitaliy Radetskyy and Pavel Grachev, heads of military departments of both countries. He expressed hope that the Black Sea Fleet problem would be solved "with Russia's president and government."

Kravchuk called the meeting between Ukrainian and Russian Defense Ministers held in Sevastopol on 21-22 April "a search for ways out" and called not to make any "far-reaching conclusions."

Kravchuk reassured that Ukraine "will support Russia's interest to have its base in Sevastopol" and noted that "nobody should be granted any unilateral advantages."

"One cannot force Russia to leave its bases in Crimea," said Kravchuk. He pointed out that "we must sign corresponding documents on rent of this bases by Russia for a definite time." "The main thing is to solve on which conditions and principles this would be done," Kravchuk said.

He underlined that he does not see any other way out—"this problem cannot be solved by dictatorship or sanctions."

Kravchuk said that existence of foreign bases on the territory of any country not obligatory threatens to its sovereignty. As an example, he mentioned functioning of U.S. naval bases in several regions of the world.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Seeks to Postpone Elections

LD2504084794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0804 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov 25 April TASS—President Leonid Kravchuk intends to request the new Ukrainian parliament to postpone presidential polls scheduled for June 26.

He told the "Ukraine" world service radio on Monday that it is "inappropriate" to hold the presidential elections as the status of the president had not been determined and the constitition was not adopted.

Kravchuk added that the former parliament adopted the decision on holdng the presidential polls "under the pressure of opposition."

Kravchuk's intention to move up elections is shared by the nationalist opposition Rukh movement, the Green Party and the Christian Democrats. They decided at their congresses that it is dangerous to hold elections in Ukraine at present and did not nominate their candidates.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, the major opponent of Kravchuk, also refused to run for the president so far.

However, the leftist forces became active in this respect. The Socialist Party nominated its leader Alexander Moroz, while the communists, who ensured a major success at the latest parliamentary elections, nominated Petr Simonenko.

Other candidates are Speaker Ivan Plushch, former prime minister Leonid Kuchma, Vladimir Lanovoi, Vladimir Pilipchuk, Yuriy Kostenko, Larisa Skorik.

Three Parties Want Elections Postponed

LD2504101994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The elections of a president and of bodies of local power should be postponed to the end of the year and take place after a new constitution has been adopted. This is included in statements by the Political Council of Ukraine's Green Party, the Democratic Party of Ukraine, and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists.

Republican Party Wants Elections Postponed

LD2504101494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The holding of elections for president of Ukraine and the chairmen and deputies of local councils in June is extremely undesirable and dangerous for the fate of Ukraine. Ukrainian Republican Party Chairman

Mykhaylo Horyn said this at a news conference devoted to the results of the party's extraordinary congress.

The Ukrainian Republican Party leader stressed that the elections should take place after a new Ukrainian constitution or a law on power is adopted. At the same time Mykhaylo Horyn emphasized that, as postponing the elections is problematical, the [party] congress gave the Ukrainian Republican Party leadership the right to take a stand on its attitude to contenders for the post of president of Ukraine.

Kravchuk Warns Crimea's Decrees May Be Abrogated

LD2504085994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov 25 April TASS—"Statements by Yuriy Meshkov [president of the Crimean Republic] about the Crimea's secession from Ukraine are poorly thought-out," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said in an interview with the world service of Radio Ukraina this morning.

"All the Crimean decrees contravening the Ukrainian Constitution and laws will be abrogated in future too. I do not speak about decrees on economic reform. In this case, there can be appropriate variations and additional possibilities for the economy's liberalisation," the president noted.

"I see Ukraine as a unitarian country," Kravchuk stressed. "Meshkov's statements that Ukraine should leave the Crimea, are not serious. The Crimea is a Ukrainian territory recognised by all countries in the world. If Russia has now bases in the Crimea for its Black Sea Fleet, it is impossible to force it to leave the bases.

"We should come to agreement with Russia, which signed appropriate documents providing for a lease of bases on the Crimean territory for a definite period of time till this issue is settled on a broader scale."

Kravchuk underlined: "I'm against aggravating the problem of the Black Sea Fleet beforehand. On the basis of a preliminary understanding, a meeting of ministers or delegations, we shall abide by understandings which are incorporated in the four documents signed by the Ukrainian and Russian heads of state.

But neither Russia nor Ukraine should dictate or demand a unilateral advantages. It is a complicated problem, and it should be settled reasonably and quietly in order not to quarrel and not to bring the situation to a conflict."

Kravchuk said that he had a telephone conversation with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin who suggested that meetings should be held at the level of the cabinet heads or the presidents and that a decision should be taken on the Black Sea Fleet.

Kravchuk: Crimea's Call for Separation 'Ill-Considered'

LD2304195394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1758 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 23 Apr—I have said more than once, and will continue to insist in the future, that relations with Crimea, as a constituent part of Ukraine, should be built on a mutually advantageous basis. I believe that Yuriy Meshkov's statements regarding the separation of Crimea from Ukraine are ill-considered, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said in an exclusive interview with UKRINFORM correspondents today.

It would appear that Meshkov is doing this out of emotion or in order to aggravate the situation. His statements saying that Ukraine should give up Crimea are, to say the least, not serious. It is a territory of Ukraine that is recognized by the whole world community, Kravchuk said.

Kravchuk believes it is unlikely that the Republic of Crimea would be able to lead a proper life without Ukraine. If our links are severed, the peninsula's population of almost 3 million will feel it straight away. But we do not want to give in to emotions and arrogance, the Ukrainian president stressed.

Kravchuk believes that Meshkov's illegal actions could become a barrier to friendly relations and partnership between Ukraine and Russia. That is a great responsibility for one man, who, profiting from current misfortunes and difficulties, flouting all international norms, is trying to separate Crimea from Ukraine. But apart from aggravating the situation, he will not succeed in doing anything, Kravchuk said.

EU Satisfied With Elections, Voices Concern Over Crimea

WS2204104594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] As a European Union [EU] communique on the Ukrainian elections says, the EU with pleasure and enthusiasm assumes that the elections were free and legal. This has been confirmed by observers' reports, in which they praise the organizational efforts. The EU expects that the election results will allow Ukraine to continue political and economic reforms. The EU has voiced concern over increasing tensions in the Crimea. It fully supports Ukraine's territorial integrity, according to the UN Charter and the principles of the CSCE Final Act.

Crimea's Pro-Ukraine Parties Demonstrate Against Secession

LD2404214694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 21 Apr—A session of the Crimean Supreme Council will be held at the beginning of May, which will examine the issue of Crimea's secession from Ukraine. This was revealed by representatives of pro-Ukrainian organizations who arrived in Kiev in connection with such an extraordinary development of events. Representatives of Crimea's branches of URP [Ukrainian Republican Party], SOU [Union of Ukrainian Officers], SUS [Union of Ukrainian Students], Union of Ukrainian Women, the "Prosvita" Society, societies of political prisoners and the repressed, the Ukrainian Civil Congress of Crimea, Majlis of the Crimean Tatar People, and organizations of the Crimean-Tatar National Movement decided for the subsequent and probably the last time to demonstrate their position to the president and Ukraine's Supreme Council: "Crimea should be part of Ukraine."

Mykola Porovskyy said, as people's deputy and leader of the Crimean branch of URP, that members of the delegation will picket the Supreme Council during the work of Ukraine's Supreme Council of the old convocation (from 22 April) "in order to show the Supreme Council what the voting on Crimea's autonomy has led to and what the consequences of the Ukrainian parliament's policy toward Crimea are." A warning hunger strike will be held during the picket. An appeal adopted by Crimea's pro-Ukrainian organizations and parties demands that Crimea's autonomy and the presidential institution be abrogated; direct presidential rule be introduced on its territory; the full return of Crimean Tatars and other deported peoples to their historic fatherland be facilitated; the rights of national autonomy be granted to them; the laws of Crimea be brought into line with Ukrainian legislation and that its implementation be guaranteed on the territory of the autonomy; Yuriy Meshkov and his supporters stop aggravating inter-ethnic hostility and anti-Ukrainian hysteria; Russian troops be withdrawn from the territory of Crimea; the problems of the Black Sea Fleet be resolved fairly; decisions of the Sevastopol town council concerning the Ukrainian Armed Forces be cancelled; and that presidential and local council elections be postponed being as they are too early.

In the event of Ukraine's Supreme Council rejecting these demands, the appeal's authors retain the right to turn to international human rights organizations in the West and to resort to acts of civil disobedience.

Outgoing Parliament Adopts Farewell Address

LD2204114894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 22 Apr 94

["Text" of "Address of the Supreme Council of Ukraine 12th convocation to the newly-elected deputies and citizens of Ukraine" adopted at the parliament's final session in Kiev on 22 April; read by Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch]

[Text] Esteemed colleagues and countrymen! The present Supreme Council of Ukraine is resigning. Fate has allowed us to play a truly historic role in consolidating Ukrainian statehood. We lived through a moment of unity when adopting the declaration of Ukraine's state sovereignty and the act of its independence. In the past four years we have laid a legislative foundation for the development of a democratic, law-governed state. Today, we have all of its integral features. Ukraine has been recognized by 145 states. It has been accepted as a rightful member of the European and world community.

The Supreme Council of Ukraine 12th convocation, with all its shortcomings, was a stabilizing factor in society and helped prevent interethnic discord. The laws it passed on the issues of nationality, interethnic relations, and protection of the rights of ethnic minorities received high appraisal from the world community. Calling on the newly elected deputies to preserve the positive heritage of the present Supreme Council, we would like to warn them against the miscalculations and mistakes we made. We failed to ensure a proper attitude to the Constitution and the laws in the society, as well as coordination between the branches of power, the center, and the regions. The practice of transferring legislative functions to executive structures proved unjustified.

The effective work of Ukraine's Supreme Council was often hindered by political confrontation. We call on the new members of parliament, political parties and movements, and their leaders to refrain from settling scores in the Supreme Council, and especially from involving their supporters in doing so. Such actions usually lead to destructive consequences for society as a whole.

We appeal to the deputies who are replacing us to (?preserve) Ukraine's statehood, its independence and territorial integrity, and the inviolability of our borders. Whatever political movements or religious denominations we are part of, whatever our ethnic background, we are all citizens of Ukraine, and there is only one Ukraine for all of us.

Adopting the new Constitution of Ukraine as soon as possible would assist in solving these problems. The most important thing today is to speed up the overcoming of the economic crisis, to stabilize and develop the national economy, and to strengthen its social orientation. This can be achieved on the road of economic reform by ensuring the equality of all forms of ownership and economic management. The financial, monetary, and credit policy and taxation require serious and essential changes. A further improved legal foundation is needed for an effective campaign against crime, first of all, organized crime and corruption, to strengthen law enforcement and ensure reliable protection of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms.

We hope that the Supreme Council of Ukraine of the new convocation will continue to work on strengthening Ukraine's authority as a large European nation, its economic integration with the countries of the CIS and other states of the world. We call on the people's deputies and all citizens to join efforts in the development of Ukraine, to do their best to preserve peace and concord in society. This is the only way we can survive the difficulties and improve people's lives. We have faith in your power and wisdom. We wish you honest and constructive work for the good of the Ukrainian people.

[signed] The Supreme Council of Ukraine, 12th convocation, Kiev, 22 April 1994.

Kravchuk Cited on Composition of New Parliament

LD2204190594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1709 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told journalists following the Supreme Soviet [as received] Friday session that 338 deputies elected to new Ukrainian parliament were too few to make what he called cardinal decisions.

He expressed the hope that there would be a sufficient number of deputies to form a government, pass legislation and change the Constitution, for instance 430 or 440 deputies.

The run-off elections in 112 constituencies are scheduled for 26 June.

Kravchuk did not say whether he would run for president. He only expressed his gratitude to those who want him to. The registration of presidential candidates will end on April 26.

He said that both the right and left-wing extremists in the new Supreme Soviet were ideologically Bolsheviks doing harm to Ukraine.

Plyushch Says All Republics Should Share Fleet

LD2204131394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik—TASS]

[Text] Kiev 22 April TASS—the Black Sea Fleet should be shared by all former Soviet republics, Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Ivan Plyushch said on Friday.

"From the very beginning the Black Sea Fleet was shared in the wrong way," he told a press conference.

According to Plyushch, the "zero option" of sharing the fleet would have settled many problems, including the Crimean one.

In the meantime, the Russian and Ukrainian defence ministers are currently discussing in Sevastopol how to share the fleet between the two countries. Russia wants to have 85 per cent of the fleet and leave 15 per cent to Ukraine. Kiev disagrees and insists on 20 and more per cent.

Lanovyy Outlines Stance on Current Issues

LD2404221994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Kharkov, 24 Apr—Former vice prime minister Volodymyr Lanovyy said at a news conference on 23 April: "My candidacy for the post of Ukrainian president at the forthcoming elections is supported by Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka], the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Democratic Party of Ukraine, the Party of Social Justice, the Green Party, the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine, and the Peasants Party of Ukraine." Leonid Kuchma, whom Volodymyr Lanovyy considers not to be a strategist, has the highest rating among the contenders for the presidential seat and this is caused exclusively by the "empty stomachs of Ukrainian citizens."

Mr. Lanovyy said that it is planned to create a new parliamentary faction in the new Supreme Council which would unite the political forces of the center right and center left as well as part of the party of power that is market-oriented. The basis for such a faction would be formed by nonparty democratic deputies. In the event of an understanding on the part of market-oriented deputies, the size of such a faction could be 130-150 persons.

Mr. Lanovyy noted that with regard to carrying out market reforms, the new composition of people's deputies would be more liberal than the old one.

Mr. Lanovyy's position concerning the Black Sea Fleet is: "The transfer of part of the Black Sea Fleet is a transfer of bases and therefore of the infrastructure, i.e. of territory. Apart from that, it is unwise and even criminal to settle economic debts with means of defense." The former vice prime minister expressed support for a parliamentary republic as the best form of statehood for Ukraine. A strong, and even tough presidential power should exist in the transitional period. Personally, Mr. Lanovyy would immediately combine two posts: those of the president and the prime minister.

Justice Minister 'Shocked' by Meshkov's Decisions

WS2204135194 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Natalya Ishchenko: "Meshkov Cannot Be Rationalized"]

[Text] Ukrainian Minister of Justice Vasyl Onopenko was shocked by last morning's reports that Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov dismissed Crimean Justice Minister Yevhen Skisov by virtue of another decree. "I simply do not understand Mr. Meshkov," Vasyl Onopenko said in an interview with KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI. "I think that he does not take into account the consequences of his actions. I will not list all Ukrainian laws or articles of the Constitution that have been violated by this decision. I will provide just one typical example: The Crimean minister learned about his dismissal from the Crimean radio. It is very sad that Yuriy Meshkov is violating the same Constitution by which he swore and to which he pledged allegiance."

Edict Introduces Privatization Certificates

LD2304131594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0353 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 23 Apr—An edict issued by the president of Ukraine entitles its citizens to a free share of the state property. According to this edict, in 1994 the citizens of

Ukraine will be able to pay for the property to be privatized either from their privatization deposits in the banks or by privatization certificates.

Beginning 1 January 1995, property privatization certificates will remain the only tender in such payments.

The Ukraine Savings Bank is instructed to ensure that these certificates are issued to the citizens of Ukraine entitled to receive them in accordance with Ukraine legislation.

The property privatization certificates are valid until 31 December 1996.

Chernobyl AES Official Underlines Safety Level

LD2204190894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1838 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent—TASS]

[Text] Kiev 22 April TASS—It is incorrect to estimate prospects of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant only negatively; calls to halt the plant are unjustified, Chernobyl nuclear power plant director Sergey Parashin told UKRINFORM on the eve of the 8th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

In his words, the "situation around the Chernobyl power plant has been excessively politicized and some are trying to use it for pressure on Ukraine."

Speaking of the recent demands for immediate halt of the power plant, Parashin said specialists "have done much from 1986 through now to increase the plant's safety and improve all the parameters of its operation. We have a clear plan of further measures to the effect and they are been consistently taken."

"Professionals are working at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and all the capacities are normally operated. I am confident that the current state of the plant is much better than that of many facilities of other branches," said the plant director.

The work of plant power units is under constant control over the state inspection for supervision over nuclear safety and other state bodies, he stressed. In case of any doubts, international experts, including those from the International Atomic Energy Agency, are invited. The situation at the "shelter" facility (the sarcophagus above the fourth power unit) is also under reliable control, and it provokes no serious concern over safety.

The plant director referred to the conclusions of the IAEA commission outlined in the commission's draft report on results of its work at the plant in March 1994: "The Chernobyl nuclear power plant has held all the arrangements scheduled for power units with RBMK reactors after the Chernobyl accident. The safety level at the first and third power units is equal to that of corresponding power units at the Leningrad, Kursk and Smolensk nuclear power plants.

"Despite the fact many highly-professional plant staffers have quitted, there are adequate resources for full staffing of the plant's six shifts to operate two power units. General impression of the control board personnel is 'professionalism'."

Unfortunately, said the director, "these essential provisions of the report were not included in the IAEA press release circulated so widely in mass media bodies."

Belarus

Minsk Postpones Joining Partnership for Peace

LD2304090194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Belarus has postponed its accession to NATO's Partnership for Peace initiative, irrespective of the reasons that prompted Russia to do this. Belarusian Deputy Foreign Minister Petr Byalyayev has announced this in an INTERFAX interview.

Friendship, Cooperation Agreement Signed With Romania

WS2204183394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Belarusian Foreign Minister Pyotr Krawchanka and Romanian Ambassador to Belarus [name indistinct] signed a protocol on exchanging documents on the ratification of a friendship and cooperation agreement between the Belarus and Romania. Commenting on this event, the Belarusian Foreign Ministry head said that it is primarily a formality, however, it puts the agreement on friendship and cooperation between our two states into effect.

11 Groups Registered in Presidential Elections

LD2204185394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Belarusian Central Electoral Commission has registered 11 initiative groups in support of candidates to elections for the first-ever Belarusian president.

INTERFAX learned in the central electoral commission that among them are groups of Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich; head of the former parliamentary commission for combating against corruption Aleksandr Lukashenko; ex-speaker of the parliament Stanislav Shushkevich; leaders of the Popular Front and the Party of Popular Accord Zenon Poznyak and Gennadiy Karpenko; President of the Union of Entrepreneurs Vladimir Karyagin; General Director of the International Management Institute Viktor Tereshchenko; Chairmen of the Association of Invalids and the parliamentary commission for economic reform Nikolay Kolbasko and Leonid Kozik; Rector of the Commercial University Edward Akhrem; and Chairman of the Council of Collective Farms Aleksandr Dubko.

The central electoral commission denied registration to two initiative groups "for including in the list group members citizens who did not give their consent."

The registration will last until 24 April.

Defense Minister Signs Statute on Military Service

WS2504083894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1950 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] According to BELAPAN, Colonel General Pavel Kazlowski, Belarusian defense minister, signed an order activating on 25 April the statute defining conditions for contract service by privates, sergeants, sailors, and master sergeants in the Belarusian Armed Forces. Thus, all Belarusian citizens under 35 years of age who have already been on active military service and are still subject to call-up, can sign a contract with the Defense Ministry for two years and serve in the Army according to their military or civilian profession. The same applies to privates and sergeants who are currently awaiting transfer to the reserves. Experts estimate that the monthly salary of a contract serviceman this April will be about 390,000 rubles, while a sergeant will make around 509,000 Belarusian hares.

Statistics on Social Protection of Servicemen

WS2104143094 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with Nikolay Ivanovich Cherginets, chairman of the Committee for Social Protection of Servicemen, by Nikolay Matukovskiy; place and date not given: "Soldier's Last Stand"]

[Excerpts] Nikolay Ivanovich Cherginets, chairman of the Committee for Social Protection of Servicemen—privates and ranking officers of the bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, veterans of foreign wars who were transferred to the reserves (or retired), and members of their families—within the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers has answered questions from RESPUBLIKA columnist Nikolay Matukovskiy.

[Matukovskiy] Nikolay Ivanovich, how many people do you oversee?

[Cherginets] One in every ten citizens of the Republic.

[Matukovskiy] Are you exaggerating?

[Cherginets] Rather minimizing, let us calculate.... The current strength of the Belarusian Armed Forces is 260,000, while the required strength should be 90,000 or even 60,000. Therefore, 170,000 servicemen should be transferred to the reserves. Next, multiply this figure by three (a husband, a wife, and a minimum of one child). The majority of them have no civilian professions, many of them have no housing, they will have to leave their garrisons. Where will they go? With what will they deal? Reaching age 45 is not the end of their lives; this is the most productive age. It is inhumane and unbecoming of our state. This is how I understand the reduction of the Armed Forces. I wish that those deputies who demand that the Armed Forces be instantaneously reduced, understood this situation.

However, this is our tomorrow, let us speak about our today, which is no easier. Thousands of Belarusians, who are performing their military service in various CIS regions, would like to return to Belarus. Many of them came back, but we have to absorb 8,684 servicemen including 7,453 officers. As we put it, 40,000 servicemen "are subject to dislocation" and we have to bring back 1,000 servicemen from "hot spots...." At the same time, we have 9,000 servicemen—retired or transferred to the reserves—who lack proper housing; a third of them live in

Minsk alone. Yes, they have some sort of roof over their heads, but can we call this housing if people are sleeping in bunk beds?

Our Republic had 251,845 soldiers fight in World War II, and 74,990 out of them are disabled. With every passing day their ranks are reduced. In addition, there are tens of thousands of families who lost their husbands or sons. In a word, everywhere there are fresh war wounds....

[Matukovskiy] However, the most bleeding wound is Afghanistan.

[Cherginets] Of course. This is our ever-lasting pain. Last year, 30 Afghan war veterans committed suicide, more than 100 were imprisoned. Many of them became drug addicts, alcoholics.... These people became outcasts. They are on the edge.... [passage omitted]

[Matukovskiy] Nikolay Ivanovich, they usually say that some 30,000 foreign war veterans live in Belarus. Are we ashamed to call them Afghan war veterans?

[Cherginets] No, we are not ashamed. The point is that our countrymen fought not only in Afghanistan, but also in Algeria, Angola, Vietnam, Egypt, Yemen, China, North Korea, Syria, Mozambique, Ethiopia—all in all, in 14 states! One Belarusian even fought in the Seychelles! All in all, 30,577 Belarusians have fought on foreign soil. Fortunately, most of them survived.... [passage omitted]

State Oil Concern Chairman, Vice President Appointed

WS2204092394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1950 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The Belarusian Council of Ministers has appointed Anton Loyka chairman of the Belarusian State Concern for Oil and Oil Products, relieving him from the duties of chairman of the Committee for Oil and Chemicals on whose basis the concern was formed. Alyaksandr Mahanik has been appointed first vice president.

National Bank Chairman of Currency Unification Treaty

PM2504083994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Vyacheslav Khodosovskiy: "Treaty Signed, Different Monetary Systems Remain In Place"]

[Text] Minsk—The text of the treaty on the unification of the Belorussian [Belarusian] and Russian monetary systems, signed in Moscow, contains a number of problems which were not resolved during the talks and which could have an adverse effect on the future of the Belorussian economy. So said Stanislav Bogdankevich, chairman of the National Bank of Belorussia [Belarus], in an interview with a RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent.

"The rate of exchange for 'hares' [popular term for Belarusian currency] and rubles has not yet been agreed," S. Bogdankevich said. "Belorussia would like it set at purchasing power parity for the Russian and Belorussian monetary units plus the market cross-rate for these currencies against the U.S. dollar. The ratio then would be 3:1. But according to the Russian 'arithmetic mean' method, the rate would be seven 'hares' to the ruble." S. Bogdankevich believes this option would be lethal for the Belorussian economy, because it would then be necessary to reduce real pay accordingly, so that the prime cost of products did not rise.

Stanislav Bogdankevic continues to insist on the amendment of Article 5 of the treaty, whereby all Belorussian assets and liabilities are to be transferred to the Central Bank of Russia and the National Bank of Belorussia is to be abolished, becoming a branch of the Central Bank. The chief of the National Bank of Belorussia believes that questions of coordination of the issuing of money, the budget deficit, credit rates, and the rest can be decided on agreement between the two sovereign banks. At the same time, Stanislav Bogdankevich was positive about the agreement that had been reached on lifting customs barriers between the two countries. "As a result of this point," he said, "our states will now be spared lengthy talk about who owes whom more and they will bring their trade balances closer together."

As the text of the document says, the treaty will come into force "on the date of the final notice by the contracting parties to one another of the implementation of the intrastate procedures necessary for its coming into force...." What this implies for Belorussia is approval of changes to the Belorussian Constitution by an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet before the end of April. S. Bogdankevich's theory is that the requisite two-thirds parliamentary majority will not be obtained, so the question of unifying the monetary systems will be postponed until a referendum. At the same time, the chief of the National Bank of Belorussia believes that the treaty will not actually be implemented by Russia until the outcome of the presidential election in Belorussia is known. And even after the election certain treaty provisions may not come into force before next January. This applies, in particular, to the extension to Belorussia of Russian domestic prices of energy sources and basic types of products from Russian enterprises. Otherwise, Russian enterprises could find themselves on the verge of collapse.

Official Views Results of Chernobyl Accident

WS2204151194 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with Mikhail Hardyka, senior investigator for cases of special importance at the office of attorney general, by Ivan Herasyuk; place and date not given: "Nobody Will Be Made Accountable"]

[Text] [Herasyuk] Perhaps we should have waited until the investigation on the Chernobyl case would be closed definitely, but certain media—I do not know who inspired them—have prematurely accused the attorney general's office of inactivity and even prejudice. Therefore, Mikhail Uladzimiravich, the public should learn about the results of your work, to prevent various speculations.

[Hardyka] As everybody knows, in June 1991, the Supreme Soviet of the then Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic [BSSR] requested the office of attorney general to conduct a legal assessment of activities of certain Belarusian officials and other people responsible for resolving issues connected with the catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Moreover, the request was formulated by certain deputies in the following way: It is necessary to immediately find the officials who are guilty and put them behind bars. In a law-governed state this is unacceptable however. It is necessary to determine the concrete fault of every single man, as well as to point out which article of which law has been violated. A special investigating team was therefore set up, and I was requested to head it. For more than three years, we have been studying the legislative basis existing at that time concerning radiation safety, and we have collected several thousand witnesses' testimonies and experts' reports. The materials have been gathered in almost 150 bulky volumes. All this had to be interpreted and systemized, and we have had to provide a legal assessment of activities of every official responsible for making specific decisions. Without exaggeration, I can say that it has been a monumental task.

[Herasyuk] The work has currently entered its final stage. You have resolved to close the criminal case....

[Hardyka] This has been inevitable, particularly, after the collapse of the USSR. Since many people became citizens of other countries, it has been very difficult to continue the investigation. Additionally, official documents of ministries which were located in Moscow at that time could not be regarded as a legal basis of the new independent Republic of Belarus. Of course, our conclusions may disappoint many people, since nobody, except for well-known employees of the plant, has been imprisoned. Nevertheless, our work has not been worthless. We know precisely today what laws we should have, so people who break the law do not remain unpunished.

[Herasyuk] What has been disclosed by the investigation?

[Hardyka] First of all, I would like to point out that we did not begin in an empty space. The Office of the USSR Attorney General had opened a criminal case prior to ours. Director Brukhanov, chief engineer Famin, his deputy Dyatlov, shift supervisor Rogozhyn, and Laushkin, chief of the Nuclear Power Industry Inspectorate, had already been brought to account. The criminal investigation against the people responsible for errors in the reactor's design and workers of the Ukrainian Civil Defense, who failed to report the accident in time, had been suspended by the Ukrainian Office of Attorney General.

On 4 May 1986, the Communist Party of Belarus [KPB] Central Committee Bureau and the BSSR Cabinet of Ministers established the Committee for Liquidating the Aftermath of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Catastrophe. The committee included Dzemyantsey, Khusaynaw, [Belarusian Prime Minister] Kebich, and other officials. Practical recommendations were examined by a scientific-technical council comprised of such well-known scientists as Nikitchanka, Pyatrayew, and [former Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman] Shushkevich. Operational headquarters were opened in Homel and Mahilyow Oblasts. Yet, everything was coordinated by an operational group of the CPSU Central Committee Political Bureau.

M. Ryzhkov, former chairman of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers, while being interrogated as a witness, said that "taking into account the knowledge existing at that time, the optimal way of liquidating the aftermath of the catastrophe was chosen. The operational group examined issues and adopted appropriate decisions. The adopted decisions were correct."

M. Kavalyow, former commander of the Civil Defense and chairman of the BSSR Cabinet of Ministers, said the following: "I learned about the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant from Hryshahin, chief of the BSSR Civil Defense General Headquarters. He did not receive any reports from Moscow or Kiev. At the beginning, we did not have complete data about the radiation level, nor did we know all the details of the catastrophe. Our equipment was able to detect only high levels of radiation. There were no accurate dosimeters in Belarus at that time. Only after the accident, Moscow allocated money to purchase such equipment abroad."

First Rank Captain D. Zhukowski, former chief of the Homel Oblast Civil Defense Headquarters, emphasized that "he was unable to learn about complete forecasts for radioactive pollution in Homel Oblast from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant civil defense or the Kiev Oblast Administration."

This was confirmed by the testimony of A. Kamay, former secretary of the KPB Homel Oblast Committee: "The Kiev Oblast Civil Defense failed to provide appropriate information.... I have received fragmentary information about the accident from the local leadership on 27 April 1986."

USSR Deputy Health Minister noted that "the government should have informed the people about radioactive contamination in the entire country and in separate regions. This was a political step.... Local authorities were unable to provide information about the accident and its aftermath. At the beginning, all reports on the accident were considered secret...."

[Herasyuk] In my opinion, Gorbachev should have been the first one to be brought to account. He found the courage to mention something about the accident only two weeks after it happened. Since the boss kept silent, his subordinates did not rush to inform the people. Neither Gorbachev nor Ryzhkov, however, were punished....

[Hardyka] As the investigation has revealed, they, as well as the leadership of our country, did not violate any laws. We can only speak about moral accountability here, but this is a personal matter. The Office of Attorney General must operate strictly within judicial categories. Thus, the case has been dismissed, because of the lack of elements of crime in activities of the people who were responsible for making important decisions during the days following the Chernobyl accident.

Conference Opens on Continuing Aftermath of Chernobyl

PM2204115994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Bogdanov: "'World After Chernobyl' Full of Illness and Suffering"]

[Text] Minsk—An international congress on "the World After Chernobyl" has opened in Minsk; it will sum up the latest scientific data from the countries afflicted by the catastrophe and will discuss tactics for overcoming its consequences.

The congress, which has attracted representatives from more than 20 countries of the CIS and beyond, will give priority attention to the situation in Belorussia [Belarus], which suffered most as a result of the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station. Almost 1.9 million people live in the contaminated regions today—virtually one in five of the Republic's inhabitants; the incidence of dangerous illnesses is constantly increasing.

Government Said Backing Down on Chernobyl Pledges

WS2504075494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1950 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The Belarusian Party of Labor [BPP] Council has issued a statement devoted to the eighth anniversary of the catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. It is becoming increasingly clear that most of the decisions adopted and promises made on this issue by the Republic's leadership have not been implemented, the statement said. In the words of its authors, many Supreme Soviet deputies, who pledged some time ago to free Belarusians of the Chernobyl misery, and the government failed to protect people from the Chernobyl radiation and drove the people into an economic Chernobyl, bringing them to the brink of annihilation. The party council considers it inadmissible that the authorities attempt to revise legal acts and decisions formerly adopted regarding the protection of people from the Chernobyl catastrophe and the level of social benefits. The BPP Council calls on all progressive forces to rally their efforts aimed at the survival and health of the Belarusian people on 26 April, the day of commemoration of the Chernobyl tragedy.

Moldova

Deputies Assail 'Interference' of Romanian Parliament

LD2204144094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] 22 April TASS—The majority of Moldovan parliament deputies described as interference in Moldovan internal affairs the statement of the Romanian parliament's Chamber of Deputies denouncing the ratification of documents on Moldovan joining of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Commonwealth economic union.

An appeal of the Moldovan parliament adopted here today reminded that Moldova is an independent state recognized by over 100 nations, primarily Romania.

At the same time, efforts to consolidate Moldovan statehood, accord and good-neighbourly atmosphere in the European region encounter "fierce resistance of some nationalist-extremist politicians, who do not even want to hear about sovereign and independent Moldova," says the document.

The appeal stressed that the majority of Moldovan citizens supported building of independent Moldovan state at the recent parliamentary elections.

Kazakhstan

Sudabayev, PRC Envoy Discuss Li Peng Visit

LD2204164594 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign minister Saudabayev today received Chen Di, the Chinese ambassador to Kazakhstan. They stressed that the mechanism of summit contacts is working efficiently. The forthcoming visit to Almaty by Prime Minister Li Peng testifies to this fact. In the opinion of both sides, this visit will play an important role in concrete development and implementations of agreements reached in October last year during Nazarbayev's visit to China. The signing of an agreement on the state border between Kazakhstan and China and other documents will be of great importance.

Travel Restricted in Areas Bordering PRC

LD2304181094 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] In accordance with the republican law on borders and the Cabinet of Minister's relevant resolution, movement is restricted in areas that border the PRC—at airports, railways, (?bus and boat terminals)—starting from 1 April.

These are the following districts: Uigur, Chinara, and Raimbek districts in Almaty Oblast; Panfilov, Kok-Su, Kapal, Zharkant, Ementas and Alagol districts in Taldy-Kurgan Oblast; Makanchi and Aksuat districts in Semey [Semipalatinsk] Oblast; in East Kazakhstan Oblast—Tarbagatau, Zaysan, Markatol, and Katon-Karagay districts. Airports are not allowed to sell tickets to outsiders in the towns Zharkent of Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, in Aksuat and Kolombay settlements of Semey Oblast, in Zaysan and Ak-Zhar towns of East Kazakhstan Oblast, Alekseyevka, Boran and Katon-Karagay settlements, as well as the railways [words indistinct]. Bus terminals in these areas are also of restricted access. From now on, those who are not permanently living in these areas should submit an application for a permit from the Ministry of Internal Affairs that will enable them to travel there.

Kyrgyzstan

Li Peng Arrives in Bishkek, Met by Leaders

LD2204161594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek 22 April TASS—Chinese Premier Li Peng began his official visit to Kyrgyzstan on Friday [22 April]. The guest arrived from Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] to Bishkek in the evening, and was met by Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev, Prime Minister Apas Amumagulov and other officials in the "Manas" airport. Then the motorcade proceeded to the suburban governmental residence "Ala-Archa."

Among the items included in Li Peng's three-day visit are meetings with the leadership of Kyrgyzstan and the signing of several inter-governmental agreements on commercial and cultural cooperation. These documents are designed to strengthen the already significant legal basis for bilateral relations between the two countries. They have already signed approximately 40 treaties, agreements and protocols in the last two years.

President Askar Akayev visited Beijing in January 1993. Li Peng's return visit, planned for that spring, was delayed due to his health problems.

Akayev, Li Peng 'Deeply Satisfied' With Ties

LD2304100794 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0930 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev and Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng are deeply satisfied with the level, prospects, and dynamics of the development of bilateral relations, Imar Rasaliyev, the Kyrgyz president's press secretary, said at a briefing in Bishkek today. He was speaking about the results of talks between the leaders of the two countries. In particular, he noted a certain degree of progress achieved in discussing the issue of disputed territories between Kyrgyzstan and China.

Make Progress on Disputed Territories

LD2304160494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev and China's Premier Li Peng "are profoundly satisfied" with the level, prospects, and pace of bilateral relations. This was declared at a briefing in Bishkek on Saturday by Akayev's spokesman Iman Rysaliev, who informed journalists about the talks between the two leaders.

He noted "certain progress" reached in talks on disputed territories between Kyrgyzstan and China. "President Akayev believes that these issues will be settled in the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation," Rysaliev said.

He revealed that the situation in Tajikistan had been in focus at the talks. In his words, Akayev believes that the Tajik government and opposition should renounce hostility and solve all problems by political means through negotiation. For his part, Li Peng declared that China "treats with understanding the difficulties, experienced by Tajikistan." He is convinced that these difficulties must be overcome within the framework of CIS. At the same time, he stressed the readiness of China as a UN Security Council member to contribute to the adoption by the world community "of appropriate steps toward solving the Tajik problems."

In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, Rysaliev reported that during the talks, Akayev had welcomed the establishment of proper relations between Russia and China. In Akayev's opinion, a successful dialogue between these two countries "is a guarantee of peace in Eurasia and a major factor of stability in Central Asia."

He also voiced Kyrgyzstan's desire to foster relations with Russia. In Rysaliev's words, "the president highly appreciates the fact that China understands why Kyrgyzstan gives priority to friendship with Russia and other CIS states."

China To Grant Credit, Humanitarian Aid

LD2404173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Report by unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Bishkek 24 April TASS—Chinese State Council Premier Li Peng, currently on an official visit to the Central Asian state of Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan], said after talks with President Askar Akayev that China did not seek to fill a sort of vacuum in the wake of the former Soviet Union's collapse, and intended to oppose any form of chauvinism.

In his turn, the Kirgiz president said the current visit by the Chinese State Council premier to Bishkek was to open good prospects for the Republic.

As concerns issues of border territories, the two leaders noted they would be solved in the spirit of mutual understanding and good-neighbourly relations. Expressing sympathy with the Kirgiz people that suffered greatly in recent natural calamities, China intends to provide humanitarian aid to the Republic and a 50 mln yuans credit.

On Sunday, the Chinese premier had a rest on Kirgizia's famous lake Issyk-Kul.

Li Peng is to return to the Kirgiz capital tomorrow and visit the Chinese Embassy. He will go to the airport at 1530 to fly off to Alma-Ata [Almaty].

Cooperation With Chinese Businessmen To Increase

LD2404210394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2004 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correpondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek 25 April TASS—Business people of China and the Central Asian Republic of Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan] plan to step up mutually beneficial cooperation. Participants in the meeting of Kirgiz and Chinese entrepreneurs, which was timed to coincide with the visit by Chinese State Council Premier Li Peng to Kirgizia this weekend, came to the conclusion that each industry in the economies of both countries were of certain mutual interest.

Kirgiz businessmen expressed readiness to supplement the list of the already existing 75 joint ventures with new ones, which will use Chinese technologies in food-making, processing of animal farming produce, manufacture of medicines and in agriculture. In their turn, Chinese entrepreneurs are interested in joint development of economic minerals, production of building materials, construction of roads to connect Kirgizia and China.

The meeting revealed certain differences between the Kirgiz and Chinese business people. Thus, the Chinese side would like to purchase Kirgiz electricity at prices close to the internal ones, while Kirgizia intends to raise them up to the level of world prices. But all these problems are quite solvable as long as entrepreneurs of the two countries are ready to meet each other halfway, participants in the meeting noted.

The meeting resulted in signing five protocols of intent, which are to be put into actions as soon as certain concrete projects are elaborated.

Last year's trade turnover between China and Kirgizia exceeded 100 mln dollars. According to the State Council premier, this figure is likely to be doubled this year.

Open Letter to Akayev From Russian Officers Cited

MK2104095094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Knyazkov: "Who Enjoys Serving in Kyrgyz Army? Russian Officers Turn to Askar Akayev for Help"]

[Text] In the wake of the "privatization" of former Soviet Army units, some 8,000 Russians ended up in the Army of Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan] (around 90 percent of its officer corps). The sovereign Republic was interested in having the Russians help put together a national army.

Protocols defining service regulations for the Russian personnel in the army of Kirgizia were initialed in Bishkek on 4 March. Under the first protocol, effective until 31 December 1999, Russian nationals—officers, warrant officers, servicemen—in the Kirgiz Army are entitled to all benefits due servicemen of the Russian Army. Kirgizia's Defense Ministry undertook to buy for a retiring Russian officer or warrant officer housing in any town (with the exception of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and not to ask Russians to take another oath of loyalty.

Under the second protocol, officers and warrant officers of the Russian Army are permitted, before 31 December 1994, to serve in the Army of Kirgizia upon signing the corresponding contract while their citizenship and benefits remain the same.

But, as they say, everything was fine only on paper. A little more than one month after the signing of the protocols in Bishkek, the public learned of instances where Russians were being ousted from the Kirgiz Army.

Russian officers in the Osh garrison in southern Kirgizia's have sent an open letter to Republic President Askar Akayev. In it they write that "behind the back and despite the will of Republic Defense Minister Myrzakan Subanov, organs of the military prosecutor's office have begun lately to oust Russian-speaking commanders from the Army."

"The military justice organs that have occupied themselves with tracking down pilferers of military and state property among the officers," continues the letter—published, incidentally, in the newspaper SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA [Kyrgyzstan's Word], "think, in our view, that since we have not yet left for our own country, this signifies that we have some side motives that are holding us back. But this is utter nonsense. We are still here only because we are true to the oath of loyalty we took some time in the past."

The letter of the Osh garrison officers is signed by 100 persons. This attests to disturbing symptoms. What will the reply to it from the military prosecutor, Kurbat Kozhonaliyev, to whom the Russian officers' main charges are addressed?

'Full Text' of Tajik Draft Constitution

LD2204161194 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1215 GMT 19 Apr 94

["Full text" of the draft constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan—read by announcer]

[Text]

Draft Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan

Preamble

We, the people of Tajikistan, as an inseparable part of the world community:

—Holding ourselves responsible and d duty bound to past, present, and future generations;

—Aiming to ensure the sovereignty, development, and perfection of our state;

—Recognizing the rights and freedoms of the individual as sacred;

—Affirming the equality of rights and friendship of all nationalities and peoples of Tajikistan; and

—Seeking to built a just society;

adopt and proclaim this Constitution.

Chapter 1. Fundamentals of the Constitutional Structure

Article 1

Tajikistan is a sovereign, democratic, law-governed, secular, and unitary Republic. The names Republic of Tajikistan and Tajikistan are of equal validity.

Article 2

The state language of Tajikistan is Tajik-Farsi. All nationalities and peoples living on the territory of the Republic are entitled to freely use their mother tongue. The procedure for the use of languages is defined by law.

Article 3

The state symbols of Tajikistan are the flag, emblem, and the national anthem.

Article 4

The capital of Tajikistan is the city of Dushanbe.

Article 5

The rights and freedoms of the individual are sacred. The recognition, observance, and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms shall be the obligation of the state.

Article 6

In Tajikistan the people are the expression of sovereignty and the sole source of state power, which will exercise them directly or through their representatives in the framework of the constitution. No social association, group of people, or individual shall have the right to seize state power. The seizure of state power is the gravest crime. Only the president and the Supreme Council [Majlis-i Milli] shall have the right to speak on behalf of all the people of Tajikistan.

Article 7

The territory of Tajikistan is indivisible and inviolable. Encouragement of separatism which violates the unity of the state is prohibited. The state shall ensure the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Tajikistan.

Article 8

In Tajikistan, public life shall develop on the basis of political and ideological diversity. No ideology, including religious ideology, shall be granted the status of state ideology. Social associations may be established and may function within the framework of the Constitution and the law. The state shall provide equal opportunities for their activities. Religious organizations shall be separate from the state and shall not interfere with state affairs. The establishment and functioning of social associations which encourage racism, nationalism, social or religious enmity and hatred, and advocate the forcible overthrow of the constitutional structure and the formation of armed groups is prohibited.

Article 9. State power shall be exercised on the basis of the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

Article 10. The Constitution of Tajikistan has supreme legal authority and its norms are direct-acting. Laws and other legal acts which run counter to the Constitution shall have no legal validity. The state and all its bodies, officials, citizens, and their associations are duty bound to observe and implement the Constitution and laws of the Republic. International legal documents recognized by Tajikistan are a constituent part of the Republic's legal system. If the Republic's laws do not conform with recognized international legal documents, the norms of the international documents shall apply. International laws and documents recognized by Tajikistan shall apply following official publication.

Article 11

Tajikistan shall implement a peaceful policy, respecting the sovereignty and independence of other states of the world, and will determine foreign relations on the basis of international norms. Proceeding from the supreme interests of the people, Tajikistan may join or withdraw from international associations and organizations and establish relations with foreign countries. The state shall cooperate with compatriots living abroad.

Article 12

The state shall protect the family as the basis of society.

Article 13

The economy of Tajikistan shall be based on various forms of ownership. The state shall guarantee freedom of economic activity, entrepreneurship, equality of rights, and the protection of all forms of ownership, including private ownership. Exceptional state ownership shall be specified by law.

Article 14

The state shall guarantee that land and other natural riches are used, and the environment protected, in the interests of the people of Tajikistan.

Chapter 2

Basic Rights, Freedoms, and Duties of Individuals and Citizens [subhead]

Article 15.

The individual and his natural rights, life, [words indistinct], and freedom are inalienable. The rights and freedoms of the individual shall be guaranteed and protected by the Constitution, the laws of the Republic, and international documents recognized by Tajikistan. In implementing rights and freedoms, limitations in the Constitution and laws may be allowed only in order to ensure the rights and freedoms of others, public order, and safeguarding the constitutional structure and territorial integrity of the Republic.

Article 16

A person shall be regarded as a citizen of Tajikistan who is a citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan on the day the Constitution is adopted. Any connection between the citizenship of Tajikistan and the citizenship of another state shall not be recognized, except in cases indicated by the law and interstate treaties of Tajikistan. The procedure for acquiring and forfeiting citizenship shall be defined by law.

Article 17

A citizen of Tajikistan outside the country shall be protected by the state. No citizen of the Republic shall be extradited to a foreign state. The extradition of a criminal to a foreign state shall be resolved on the basis of mutual agreement.

Foreign citizens and stateless persons shall have the same rights, freedoms, responsibilities, and duties as a citizen of Tajikistan, except in cases stipulated by law.

Tajikistan shall offer political asylum to foreign citizens whose human rights are violated.

Article 18

All shall be equal before the law and the courts. The state shall guarantee the rights and freedoms of every person regardless of nationality, race, sex, language, religious beliefs, political stance, social status, knowledge, or property.

Article 19

Each person shall have the right to life. No one may be deprived of life except by order of a court for the gravest crime.

Article 20

The state shall protect the freedom, inviolability, honor, and dignity of the individual. No one may be subjected to torture, (?violence), or any other inhumane treatment. It is forbidden to subject a person to forced medical or scientific experiments.

Article 21

Each person is guaranteed judicial protection. Each person is entitled to demand that his case be considered by a competent and impartial court. No one may be (?arrested), kept in custody, or exiled without a legal reason. Each person is entitled to legal assistance from the moment of his arrest and to complain to a court on the basis of law.

Article 22

No one shall be judged guilty of a crime except by sentence of a court in accordance with the law. [Passage indistinct] No one may be tried twice for a crime. A law adopted after an illegal act has been committed by a person and which envisages severe punishment shall not have retrospective effect. If after an illegal act has been committed a law is passed which envisages either no punishment or a light punishment, the new law shall apply. Total confiscation of the property of a convicted person is prohibited.

Article 23

The law shall safeguard the rights of the victim. The state shall guarantee judicial protection and compensation to the victim.

Article 24

A person's home shall be inviolable. It is forbidden to forcibly enter the home of a person except in cases prescribed by law. No one may be deliberately deprived of a home.

Article 25

Privacy of correspondence, telephone conversations, and the postal and communication rights of each person shall be ensured, except in cases prescribed by the law.

Article 26

Each citizen has the right to travel, freely choose his place of residence, to leave the Republic, or to return to it.

Article 27

Each person shall have the right to form a family. Men and women who have reached a marriageable age shall have the right to freely marry without any hindrance. Husband and wife shall have equal rights in marriage and in divorce.

Article 28

Mothers and children are entitled to special care and protection by the state. Parents shall be responsible for the upbringing of their children, and adult children of working age shall be responsible for providing and [words indistinct] of their parents. The state shall be [word indistinct] for the protection, upbringing, and education of orphan children.

Article 29

The collection, storage, utilization, or dissemination of information about a person's private life without his consent are forbidden.

Article 30

State bodies, social associations, and officials shall be obliged to ensure that each person has the opportunity to seek and see documents affecting his rights and interests, except in cases prescribed by the law.

Article 31

Each person has the right to freely determine his position toward religion, to profess any religion individually or together with others, or not to profess any, and to take part in religious customs and ceremonies.

Article 32

Each citizen has the right to take part in political life and state administration directly or via their representatives. Citizens have equal rights to state service. Each citizen has the right to elect or be elected from the age of 18 years. A citizen can be elected to the Supreme Council when he reaches the age of 25. Citizens deemed incompetent by a court or who are deprived of liberty in accordance with a court sentence do not have the right to take part in elections and referendums. Elections and referendums are held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage in a secret ballot.

Article 33

The formation of social associations, and joining and leaving them by citizens is voluntary.

Article 34

Citizens have the right to take part peacefully and (?without weapons) in meetings, rallies, demonstrations and processions. No one can be forced to take part in the above-mentioned activities.

Article 35

Each person is guaranteed freedom of speech, publication and the right to utilize means of (?information). State censorship and prosecution for criticism is prohibited. The (?list) of information constituting a state secret is specified by law.

Article 36

Each person has the right to ownership and inheritance. No one is permitted to suspend and limit an individual's right to ownership. The property of an individual is only taken away on the basis of law and the consent of the owner for the requirement of the state and society by paying full compensation. Any material and spiritual damage inflicted on an individual as a result of illegal actions by state bodies, social associations or individuals will be compensated in accordance with law.

Article 37

Each person has the right to work, to choose his profession or work, and to protection of labor. Wages for labor cannot be less than the minimum wage. Any limitation is prohibited in labor relations. Equal wages shall be paid for the same work. Forced labor is not permitted, except in cases defined by law. Using women and child labor is prohibited in heavy and underground work and in harmful conditions.

Article 38

Each person has the right to entrepreneurial activities and is allowed to utilize paid labor in accordance with the law.

Article 39

Each person has the right to housing. This right is ensured by means of construction of state, public, cooperative and private housing.

Article 40

Citizens have the right to leisure. These rights are ensured by establishing working (?hours) and days, paid annual holidays, weekly days off and other conditions prescribed by law.

Article 41

Each person has the right to health care. This right is ensured by providing free medical assistance in state medical establishments and by measures aimed at protecting the environment. Other forms of medical assistance are defined by law.

Article 42

Each person is guaranteed social security in old age, in the event of sickness and disability, loss of ability to work, loss of a guardian, or other instances prescribed the law.

Article 43

Each person has the right to participate freely in its society's culture, arts, and in (?scientific) and technical creation and to utilize their achievements. The state protects cultural and spiritual riches. Intellectual property is protected by law.

Article 44

Each person has the right to education. The state guarantees access to free general education. Other forms of acquiring education is defined by law.

Article 45

On the territory of Tajikistan each person is obliged to observe the Constitution and the laws and to recognize the rights, freedoms, dignity, and honor of others. Ignorance of the law is no defense.

Article 46

Protecting the homeland; safeguarding the interests of the state; and strengthening the independence, security, and defense capabilities (?of the homeland) are the sacred duties of citizens. The procedure for military service is specified by law.

Article 47

The protection of the environment, land, and other natural resources; and the historical and cultural heritage and their efficient utilization are the duties of each person.

Article 48

Each person is obliged to pay taxes and duties specified by law. Laws introducing new taxes or [word indistinct] the economic situation of the tax payer cannot be retroactive.

Article 49

The Supreme Council is the highest representative and legislative body of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Supreme Council is elected for a five-year term. The establishment and activity of the Supreme Council is specified by law.

Article 50

The powers of the Supreme Council:

1. The enactment and amendment of laws and orders and their annulment.

2. Interpretation of the Constitution and laws.

3. Determination of the basic directions of the home and foreign policy of the Republic.

4. Establishment of the Central Election and Referendum Commission.

5. Specifying the referendum. [as heard]

6. Specifying the date for election of the president.

7. Specifying the date for election of higher and local representative bodies.

8. Approving the establishment and abolition of ministries and state committees.

9. Ratification of the decrees of the president on appointment and dismissal of the prime ministers, first deputy prime ministers and deputy prime ministers, ministers, and chairmen of the state committees.

10. Election and removal of chairman, deputy chairman, and judges of the Constitutional Court; chairman, deputy chairmen, and judges of the Supreme Court; chairman, deputy chairman, and judges of the Higher Economic Court; procurator general of the Republic and his deputies; and chairman and deputy chairmen of the national bank at the proposal of the president.

11. Ratification of the socioeconomic programs and the state budget; approval of loans and economic assistance to other states; determining the possible amount of the state budget deficit and the sources of compensating it; determining the taxation policy.

12. Specifying the monetary system.

13. Specifying or changing the structure and establishment of border administrative units and changing them.

14. Ratification and annulment of international treaties.

15. Establishment of courts.

16. Ratification of the programs of the president on the state of war, peace, and state of emergency.

17. Establishing state awards.

18. Establishing military and diplomatic ranks and special titles.

19. Approval of state symbols.

20. Approval of the seal of the state.

21. Declaration of general amnesty.

22. Implementation of other duties prescribed by law.

Article 51

The basic form of the activity of the Supreme Council is the session. The first session of the Supreme Council is convened one month after the election of people deputies by the Central Election and Referendum Commission. A session of the Supreme Council convenes only when attended by at least two-thirds of the people's deputies.

Article 52

For the purpose of organizing the work of the Supreme Council and the implementation of the powers stipulated by the Constitution and the laws, the Presidium of the Supreme Council, under the leadership of the chairman of the Supreme Council, will be established. Composition of the Presidium of the Supreme Council include chairman of the Supreme Council, first deputy chairman, deputy chairmen, and chairmen of the committees and standing commissions of Supreme Council. The Supreme Council can elect other people's deputies as members of the Presidium of the Supreme Council.

Article 53

Authority of the Presidium of the Supreme Council

1. To convene the Supreme Council;

2. To prepare for the sessions of Supreme Council;

3. To coordinate the work of the committees and standing commissions of the Supreme Council;

4. To propose for public discussion drafts laws and other important state and public issues;

5. To organise interparliamentary relations;

6. To oversee the activities of the publications of the Supreme Council and to appoint or dismiss editors in chief of the publications;

7. To approve the appointment or recall of the heads of diplomatic missions of Tajikistan in foreign countries and republican missions at international organizations; and

8. To implement other powers stipulated by the Constitution and other laws. The Presidium of the Supreme Council adopt decisions.

Article 54

The Supreme Council elects from among the people's deputies chairman of the Supreme Council, first deputy chairman, deputy chairmen, and chairman of the committees and standing committees of the Supreme Council.

One of the deputy chairmen of the Supreme Council will be a people's deputy representing the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

The chairman of the Supreme Council will be elected by secret ballot by a majority of the total number of people's deputies.

Article 55

Authority of the chairman of the Supreme Council:

1. To exercise leadership and direction over issues which will be discussed at sessions of the Supreme Council;

2. To preside at sessions and the Presidium of the Supreme 3 Council;

3. To nominate the first deputy chairman, deputy chairmen, and chairmen of the committees and standing commissions of the Supreme Council;

4. To [word indistinct] the decisions of the Supreme Council and its Presidium;

5. To represent the Supreme Council in the country and abroad;

6. To sign inter-parliamentary agreements;

7. To direct the apparatus of the Supreme Council and to give orders; and

8. To implement other powers stipulated in the Constitution and laws.

Article 56

The first deputy chairman and chairmen of the Supreme Council will carry out the chairman's duties at the chairman's instructions.

In the absence of the chairman, the first deputy chairman carries out his duties.

Article 57

The Supreme Council will elect, from among the people's deputies, members of committees and standing commissions tasked with preparing draft laws, implementing supervisory duties, and preparing [word indistinct] issues for discussions.

The Supreme Council, if necessary, will establish auditing and investigation commissions and other temporary commissions.

Article 58

A people's deputy has the right to ask for information from any official needed to carry out his duties. A people's deputy can express his opinions freely and vote according to his beliefs.

Article 59

A people's deputy who is working for the Supreme Council permanantly cannot hold any other post, except for scientific and creative activities, and cannot engage in entrepreneurial activities. Citizen of Tajikistan cannot hold two representative positions of authority simultaneously.

Article 60

A people's deputy has the right of immunity. He cannot be taken into custody, (?arrested), or receive a court-imposed penalty without the sanction of the Supreme Council. A people's deputy cannot be arrested without the sanction of the Supreme Council, with the exception of arrest while committing a crime.

The authority of a people's deputy will terminate at his resignation, when a court proclaims him incapable, or by a valid decision of the Supreme Council.

The legal status of a people's deputy is defined by law.

Article 61

The people's deputies, the president, government, and the Council of People's Deputies of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast have the right to legislate.

Article 62

The laws of Tajikistan and the decisions of the Supreme Council are adopted by the majority vote of the total number of people's deputies. Laws whose adoption is envisaged in the Constitution will be adopted with at least two thirds of the total number of people's deputies voting in favor.

Article 63

The laws of Tajikistan are presented to the president for consent. If the president does not agree with the law he should return it within 15 days to the Supreme Council with his reasons and objections. If the Supreme Council once again approves the law with at least a two-thirds majority of people's deputies, the president will sign it. If the president does not return the law within the prescribed period he is duty bound to sign it.

The laws of Tajikistan and the decisions of the Supreme Council are to be adopted in the state language and will be published in official publications.

Article 64

The Supreme Council can be voluntarily suspended before its term ends by a vote of at least two-thirds of the people's deputies. In any case the authority of the people's deputies of Tajikistan terminates on the first day of the session of the new Supreme Council.

Chapter 4. The President

Article 65

The president is the head of state and the executive authority is exercised by the government. The government of the Republic consists of the prime minister, first deputy and deputy prime ministers, ministers, and chairmen of the state committees. The president is the protector of the Constitution and laws and the rights and freedoms of the citizens and the guarantor of the national independence, unity, and territorial integrity, and the stability and continuity of the state, and he ensures the functioning of the bodies of state power and the observance of the international treaties of Tajikistan.

Article 66

The president is elected by the citizens of Tajikistan on the basis of universal, direct, and equal suffrage in a secret ballot for a five-year term. Any citizen aged between 35 and 65 who knows the state language and has lived on the territory of Tajikistan at least for the past 10 years can be nominated to the post of president. Only a person whose nomination is signed by at least 5 percent of the electorate shall be eligible for candidacy to the post of president. A person may not be elected to the office of president for more than two consecutive terms.

Article 67

The election of the president is only deemed valid if more than half of the electorate takes part in it. A candidate who wins the votes of more than half of the voters taking part in the election shall be the president. The procedure for the election of the president is specified by law.

Article 68

Before assuming office the president takes the following oath in the Supreme Council: As president, I do solemnly swear to comply with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic; to guarantee the rights, freedoms, and dignity of the citizens; to protect the territory and the political, economic, and cultural independence of Tajikistan; and to serve the people sincerely.

The authority of the president terminates with the swearing-in of the new president.

Article 69

The president cannot take any other job. He cannot serve as a deputy of a representative nor engage in entrepreneurial activity. The salary of the president is fixed by the Supreme Council.

Article 70

The powers of the president:

1. To represent Tajikistan internally and in international (?relations);

2. To establish or abolish ministries and state committees with the approval of the Supreme Council;

3. To appoint and dismiss the prime minister, first deputy and deputy prime ministers, ministers, and chairmen of the state committees and to propose them for approval to the Supreme Council;

4. To form the executive apparatus of the presidency;

5. To appoint and dismiss the Mirs of oblasts, towns, and rayons and propose them for approval to the local Majlis;

6. To nominate the chairman, deputy chairman, and judges of the constitutional court; chairman, deputy chairman, and judges of the supreme court; chairman, deputy chairman, and judges of the supreme economic court; the procurator general and his deputies; the president of the National Bank and his deputies and propose them for appointment and recall to the Supreme Council

7. To appoint and dismiss the judges of the courts of the Gorno- Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, oblasts, towns, and rayons at the proposal of the justice minister with the exception of judges of the towns and rayons of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast;

8. To propose socioeconomic programs and the state budget to the Supreme Council for approval. To resolve the issues of state loans and economic assistance to other states with the approval of the Supreme Council and to propose to Supreme Council the issue of the possible amount of state budget deficit and the source of compensating it. [sentence indistinct];

9. To make proposals to the Supreme Council to determine the monetary system;

10. To sign the laws;

11. To annul or suspend documents of state administration when they contradict the Constitution and laws;

12. To implement foreign policy and to sign international treaties and propose them to the Supreme Council;

13. To appoint with the approval of the Presidium of the Supreme Council the heads of diplomatic missions in foreign countries and representatives of the Republic in international organizations;

14. To accept the credentials of foreign diplomatic missions in Tajikistan;

15. To be the supreme commander of the armed forces of Tajikistan. Appoints and dismisses chief commanders of the armed forces of Tajikistan;

16. In the event of real danger threatening the security of the state the president declares a state of war and immediately proposes the decree to the Supreme Council for approval;

17. To declare a state of emergency throughout the Republic or in separate parts of it and propose it to the Supreme Council immediately;

18. To establish and lead the security Council;

19. To offer political asylum;

20. To resolve the issues of confirming or [word indistinct] of citizenship;

21. To issues pardons;

22. To award special higher military ranks, diplomatic ranks, and professional ranks and titles;

23. To Award state prizes, medals, and honorary titles of Tajikistan to the citizens;

24. To implement other powers prescribed in the constitution and laws;

Article 71

The president adopts orders and edicts within the framework of his authority, informs the Supreme Council about the country's situation, and submits those issues, which he regards necessary and important, to the Supreme Council for discussion.

Article 72

In the event of the president's death, resignation, removal from office, or inability to perform the duties of the president, the duties of the president will be assumed by the chairman of the Supreme Council until new presidential elections. Presidential elections will be held within three months in the above-mentioned circumstances. Issues surrounding the resignation or inability to perform the duties of the president will be resolved by the majority of people's deputies at a session of the Supreme Council.

Article 73

The president enjoys immunity. If the president breaks the oath or commits a crime, he can be removed from office by the Supreme Council, taking into account [word indistinct] the Constitutional Court by the support of at least two-thirds of people's deputies. A charge of breaking the oath or committing a crime against the president can be put forward by at least one-third of people's deputies. In such circumstances the duties of the chairman of the special session of the Supreme Council will be assumed by the chairman of the Supreme Court. The people's deputies will take an oath that they will act with a clear conscience and within the framework of law and justice during the discussion of this issue. The investigation will be continued after the removal of the president from office; he will receive a copy of the accusation; and his criminal case will be sent to the court.

Chapter 5: The Government

Article 74

The composition of the government will be formed by the president and submitted for approval to the Supreme Council. Members of government cannot perform any other duties, be the deputies of representative authorities, or engage in entrepreneurship. The government ensures the successful leadership of economic, social, and cultural spheres and implementation of laws and decrees of the Supreme Council and orders and decrees of the president of Tajikistan.

Article 75

The government issues orders and decrees in accordance with the laws of the Republic, the implementation of which is necessary in the territory of Tajikistan. The government places its authorities before the the newly elected president [as heard]. The law determines the structure, activity, and authority of the government.

Chapter 6: The Local Government

Article 76

Tajikistan consists of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, oblasts, towns, rayons, settlements, and villages. The law regulates the structure of border and administrative units and the legal situation of Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

Article 77

The local government consists of representative and executive authorities and functions within the framework of its authorities. They will ensure the implementation of the Constitution, and implementation of laws and decrees of the Supreme Council and the president.

Article 78

The local representative authority is the council [majlis]. The population elects the deputies of the council for a term of five years. The mir governs the local executive government. The mir also governs the representative and executive authorities in the border and administrative units. The local council will approve the decree of the president on appointing the mir of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, oblasts, towns, and rayons. The local council will elect the mir of a settlement and village by a recommendation of the above authorities. The mir is responsible to the local council and cannot take any actions that are against the constitution and laws. The law regulates the structure, authorities, and the activity of the local government's power.

Article 79

The representative authority and mir would adopt the legal documents within the framework of their authority, the implementation of which is necessary in that territory. If the documents do not conform to the constitution and laws, the documents of the representative authorities and mir would be revoked by the above authorities or the court.

Article 80

The Supreme Council can dissolve the local council and hold new elections if the local council does not fulfill the demands of the constitution and laws.

Chapter 7: The Court

Article 81

The judicial power is independent and protects rights and freedom of a person, the state's interests, organizations and establishments, law, and justice. The court's justice is implemented by the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, Supreme Economic Court, Court of the Gornyy Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, courts of oblast, city of Dushanbe, towns, and rayons. The creation of emergency courts is not permitted.

Article 82

Citizens who have reached the age of 25 and are no older than 60 and have at least five years' experience in the legal profession may be elected as judges of the Supreme Court, Supreme Economic Court, courts of oblasts, and the city of Dushanbe. Citizens who have reached the age of 25 and are no older than 60 and have at least three years' experience in the legal profession can be elected town and rayon judges.

Article 83

The president appoints and removes from office the judges of the courts of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, oblasts, towns, and rayons by proposals of the Minister of Justice. The town and rayon judges in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast will be appointed and removed from from office by the mir of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast by consent of the Minister of Justice. The law determines the structure and activity of the court.

Article 84

The term of authority of the judges of the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, and Supreme Economic Court is 10 years. The term of authority of the judges of the courts in Gornyy Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, oblasts, the city of Dushanbe, towns, and rayons is five years.

Article 85

Judges are independent and are subordinate only to the Constitution and law. Interference in their activity is not permitted.

Article 86

Judges consider cases collectively or individually. Court proceedings are carried out on the basis of an adversarial system and the equal rights of the parties. The examination of cases in all courts is open, except those cases stipulated in law. Court proceedings will take place in the official language or the language of the majority of population of the place. People who do not know the language of the court proceedings will be provided with translators.

Article 87

The Constitutional Court consists of seven judges. Citizens who have reached the age of 30 and who are no older than 60 may be judges of the Constitutional Court. The judges of the Constitutional Court will be elected from lawyers who have more than 10 years' experience in the legal profession.

The powers of the Constitutional Court:

1. Determine the conformity of laws and legal documents of the Supreme Council, the President, Supreme Court, Supreme Economic Court, and other state and social authorities and agreements which have not entered into force in Tajikistan [as heard];

2. Resolve disputes between state power and authorities;

3. Application to the session of the Supreme Council related to charges against the president of treason and breaking the oath;

4. Implementation of other duties stipulated by law. Those documents that are considered contradictory to the Constitution by the Constitutional Court will be invalidated. The decision of the Constitutional Court which has been adopted within the framework of its authorities is final.

Article 88

Judges cannot perform other duties, except scientific, teaching, and creative work. Judges cannot not be deputies of representative authorities, members of parties, and political organizations and cannot engage in entrepreneurship.

Article 89

Judges enjoy immunity. A judge may not be subjected to arrest and criminal proceedings without the permission of that authority which has elected him. A judge may not be arrested except while committing a crime.

Article 90

Legal assistance is recognized in all stages of the court proceedings.

Chapter Eight: Procurator's Office

Article 91

The procurator-general and procurators who are subordinate to him ensure the thorough control and observance of laws within the framework of their authority.

Article 92

The procurator-general heads a single centralized system of the Prosecutor's Office of Tajikistan. The prosecutor-general is responsible to the Supreme Council.

Article 93

The procurator-general of Tajikistan would be elected for a term of five years. The procurator-general appoints and removes from office those procurators who are subordinate to him. The term of authority of procurators is five years. The law regulates activity, authority and structure of the Procurator's Office.

Article 94

The procurator is functioning independently without interference from the state bodies and officials and only subordinated to law.

Article 95

The prosecutor may not perform other duties except scientific, teaching and creative work. The procurator may not be members of parties, political organizations and to engage in entrepreneurship.

Chapter Nine: State of Emergency

Article 96

A state of emergency is declared as a temporary measure to ensure the citizen's and state's security in the instances of direct threat to the rights and freedom of citizens, state's independence, its territorial integrity and natural disasters as a result of which the constitutional authorities of the Republic are unable to act normally.

The period of the state of emergency is three months. The president could prolong this period in necessary circumstance. He immediately submits the decree to the Supreme Council for approval.

Article 97

During the state of emergency the rights and freedoms stipulated in Articles 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27 and 31 of the Constitution would not be limited.

The president informs the United Nations Organization about the declaration of state of emergency and its duration. The law determines the legal regime of state of emergency.

Chapter 10: Procedure of introducing amendments t the Constitution

Article 98

Amendments and addenda to the Constitution take place by the means of referendum. The referendum would take place by the support of two-thirds of the people's deputies. The procedure of referendum would be determined by law.

Article 99

The President or at least one-third of people's deputies of Tajikistan submit addenda and amendments to the Constitution. Proposals related to addenda and amendments to the Constitution would be published in press three months before the referendum.

Article 100

The form of the Republic's administration, territorial integrity, democratic, law-based and secular nature of the state are irrevocable.

The following group of people have prepared the draft Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan:

Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, head of the group.

Azizova, the head of department of law of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Aliyev, the chairman of the Committee on Supervision over the Constitution, candidate of Law.

Ismoilov, the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan, doctor of Law.

Musoyeva, the Chairman of the Committee of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan on state's structure, candidate of engineering.

Rahimov, an academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Rahmonov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Tajikistan, candidate of Law.

Rajabov, the chairman of the Committee of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan on Legislation, Order and Law and Human Rights.

Rustamov, a full member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Solehov, the procurator-general of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Hamidov, First Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan, Candidate of Law. The draft was discussed and approved taking into account addenda and amendments by the Commission of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan on preparation of draft constitution of the Republic and recommended for nationwide referendum.

Government 'Satisfied' With Talks With Opposition

LD2104173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1517 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 21 April TASS—Tajik Labor and Employment Minister Shukyrdzhon Zukhurov, who heads the Dushanbe governmental delegation to the negotiations with the Tajik opposition, said he was satisfied with the first round of talks. He stressed that, despite different approaches to several questions, the two sides had taken the first step towards a political solution to the inter-Tajik national conflict.

Zukhurov told a press-conference on Thursday that the difficult two-week negotiations had started 5 April in Moscow upon the initiative of the United Nations and with the participation of observers from several nearby republics, including Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The two sides looked at three groups of questions concerning the necessity of bringing a halt to hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside Tajikistan itself.

A protocol on the return of refugees and a general communique on the results of the first round were signed at the round's finish. The head of the governmental delegation said that the second round had been scheduled for approximately the end of May and would be held in either Tehran or Islamabad.

Premier Urges Currency Unification With Russia

MK2204115094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 16/41, 22-28 Apr 94 (Signed to press 21 Apr) p 2

[Telephone interview with Tajikistan Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov by OBSHCHAYA GAZETA correspondent Yuriy Kushko under the "Hello" rubric: "Going to the Ruble Zone with a Tajik Ruble"—date not given]

[Text] Whereas Russia and Belorussia [Belarus] have signed a treaty on merging their money systems, in Tajikistan this unification has been slowed down. Yuriy Kushko, OBSHCHAYA GAZETA correspondent, turned to Tajikistan Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov for comments.

[Kushko] How correct is the report that during your meeting with Aleksandr Shokhin in Moscow an agreement was reached on the introduction of "banknotes with national symbols" in Tajikistan?

[Samadov] This matter was indeed discussed. Upon agreement with the Russian Government such banknotes will be temporarily introduced in our country. Tajikistan's order for printing them has been placed with the Russian "Goznak" factory. We will receive the first batch in May.

[Kushko] Can this money be seen as national currency?

[Samadov] No, it cannot. This will be a kind of a coupon ruble to service our domestic trade.

[Kushko] You have repeatedly said that the collapse of economic ties and civil war have pushed Tajikistan to the verge of survival. Can it be that the current cash crunch will push the Republic to the verge of death?

[Samadov] Presently we are on the brink of social upheavals among certain sectors of the population. At the same time I rule out the recurrence of civil war. Yes, it is hard, but we all have to hold out for another couple of months.

[Kushko] According to the terms of Tajikistan's accession to the ruble zone, Russia promised it a credit of 120 billion rubles [R]. Has the agreement been adhered to and is this money sufficient?

[Samadov] In all, we received around R70 billion. However, the Republic's requirements in the first quarter alone were R174 billion, and just as much in the second quarter. But we understand that Russia itself is short of money.

[Kushko] Does the introduction of the Tajik coupon ruble mean that the idea of merging money systems has been given up?

[Samadov] This is a complex and protracted process, but it cannot go on indefinitely. As for the Tajik side, we are ready to walk our part of the way to the end. At the latest talks in Moscow we firmly agreed with the Russian side that our money systems will finally be merged.

Dushanbe Said Dependent on Russian Aid

LD2304170694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The Tajik opposition leader Akbar Turajonzod argues that Tajikistan's leadership cannot last even three days without military and economic help from Russia. He has stressed in an interview with INTERFAX that Russia could end the civil war in Tajikistan within a month, if it wished to.

He did not rule out that the opposition might put pressure on the authorities in Dushanbe to speed up negotiations between the various Tajik factions. In his words, he has made this known to Albert Tchernyshev, a Russian foreign minister's assistant.

He noted that Moscow, on which the fate of Tajikistan depended in many ways, belittle the significance and role of the opposition. "We do not want war and bloodshed, even though we are quite strong even in Dushanbe," he stressed.

To prevent the talks between the various Tajik factions from being as protracted as the Georgian-Abkhazi negotiations, he suggested that they should involve the Kulyab clan, which is represented in all the power ministries in Tajikistan.

He wished that Tajikistan would be a democracy, where the church be separated from the state.

In his words, the opposition does not intend to advance Tajikistan theocratically on the threshold of the 21 century. He believes that Islamic traditions in the republic could be restored only "by people's will through referendums."

"Even if we come to power through elections, we will not change such basic constitutional norms as the freedom of speech or alter the functioning of any parties", he said.

"We cannot understand why Russians are scared by the revival of Islamic fundamentalism in Tajikistan. That does not correspond to reality," Turajonzod declared.

Turkmenistan

PRC, Japan To Help Turkmenistan Export Gas

LD2204100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Ashkhabad 22 April TASS—Turkmenistan will export its gas with China's and Japan's help. A preliminary agreement was reached on this score here today between the Turkmenian Ministry for Petroleum and Gas and officials of the Chinese National Oil Corporation, accompanying Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council, in his 12-day tour of four Central Asian countries-members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

China undertakes to build the necessary pipeline, says the bilateral protocol of intent. A commission, including Turkmenian, Chinese and Japanese experts, will be set up shortly to draw up the project, the document notes.

The question of building an Asian super-pipeline was raised during Turkmenian President Saparmurad Niyazov's visit to China in November 1992.

Representatives of Turkmenian and Chinese business circles have also concluded an agreement to deliver 20,000 tonnes of cotton to China, to promote contacts between the Chambers of Commerce of the two countries, to supply to Turkmenistan Chinese-made electrical household appliances, and to build steel-smelting and aluminium plants.

Tajikistan

Niyazov Begins Second Round of Talks With Li Peng

LD2204085994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0755 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazkovskaya]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] 22 April TASS—A second round of talks between the Turkmen president and visiting Premier of the Chinese State Council Li Peng began in Ashkhabad on Friday.

Before the talks between the Turkmen and Chinese leaders began, a conference of a political group was held by [Deputy] Chinese Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and the Turkmen vice-premier, Boris Shikhmuradov.

The sides highly assessed Turkmen-Chinese relations and pointed out that the talks were resultful and were going ahead successfully. They expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries and said they were prepared to continue the dialogue and mutual consultations.

Turkmen officials announced their decision to open the Turkmen embassy in Beijing.

During the talks the sides discussed a number of other questions concerning cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. In particular, an agreement was reached on carrying out joint research in the field of history.

Chinese officials declared that China grants 1.5 million yuan gratis to the Turkmen Education Ministry to provide equipment and teaching aids to Turkmen schools.

Accords Signed at End of Tajik, PRC Talks

LD2204122894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 22 Apr—The Turkmen-Chinese summit talks have ended with the signing of three intergovernmental and five interdepartmental agreements in Ashkhabad. Agreements have been reached on the provision by China of a state loan of 50 million yuan to Turkmenistan, on cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries, and also on the study by inhabitants of the two countries of the Chinese and Turkmen languages.

Letters of intents have been signed:

- Between the Ministry of Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan and the Chinese national oil and gas company on joint cooperation in the development of the two countries' oil and gas sectors;
- Between the Turkmen "Kuvvat" state power technology corporation and a Chinese trade and industry group of companies, in which the Chinese side has expressed willingness to build an iron and steel works to process scrap metal and an aluminum production works;
- On long-term cooperation between the Ministry of Construction and Architecture of Turkmenistan and the all-China engineering and construction corporation, which expresses willingess to cooperate on the setting up of joint enterprises to produce welding electrodes, porcelain goods, ceramic tiles, earthenware, and furniture.
- A letter of intent between the Ministry of Trade of Turkmenistan and a Chinese electronics import and export company envisages reciprocal commercial activity; in particular, deliveries by the Chinese company of domestic electronic equipment and electronic goods.

- A letter of intent between the Ministry of Agriculture of Turkmenistan and the "Chinatex" textile import and export company of China reflects a willingness by the Chinese side to purchase Turkmen cotton fiber.

Niyazov, Li Peng Agree to Chinese Aid

LD2204220094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1407 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 22 Apr—Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov and Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC), have agreed to expand bilateral, political, economic, and cultural links.

After completing his three-day visit to Turkmenistan, the Chinese governmental head left for Bishkek where he will have talks with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev on Saturday [23 April].

Although during the visit no agreement was concluded on the "project of the century"—the installation with Chinese participation of a super gas pipe to connect wells in the Karakum deserts to gas rings on the islands of Japan—the parties agreed to "continue to study seriously" the project. A protocol on intentions was signed between Turkmenistan's Ministry of Oil and Gas and the Chinese national oil corporation that envisages the creation of a Sino-Turkmen-Japanese commission of experts.

In the opinion of experts, Turkmenistan may boost its yearly gas extraction to 230 billion cubic meters in the next 15 years.

A press communique on the visit's results distributed by the Chinese delegation notes both countries' intention to build long- term, stable relations on the basis of principles of world coexistence emphasized at the talks. The Chinese Government voiced support for Turkmenistan's efforts to defend state independence and sovereignty and to stabilize the situation in the country and region. Direct links between the partners in the trading and economic sphere would be encouraged. There was a "positive attitude" to opening direct air links between China and Turkmenistan.

An agreement on granting Turkmenistan a Chinese loan and a protocol on regular consultations between the two countries' foreign ministries were signed in the presidential palace today. The Chinese Government will also grant material and technical assistance free of charge. Both the contents of the latter and the value of the loan are unknown.

Li Peng, who has already been to Uzbekistan, will also visit Kazakhstan and Mongolia in the course of his present 12-day trip.

Uzbekistan

French President Expected in Tashkent 25 Apr

LD2504061894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0545 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vilor Niyazmatov and Mikhail Kalmykov]

[Text] Tashkent 25 April TASS—A wide-range of questions of mutual interest to Uzbekistan and France including bilateral relations, the situation in the region, prospects for the Commonwealth of Independent States, security and ecology will be discussed in the course of the French President Francois Mitterrand's state visit to Uzbekistan, which begins today.

A number of joint documents are expected to be signed in Tashkent, including an agreement on cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two countries, an agreement on visas and a taxation convention.

The French entrepreneurs, who accompany Francois Mitterrand, count on fruitful contacts with Uzbek colleagues. They are due to discuss joint projects in a number of industries, including cotton-growing and the food sector, as well as in the field of railway and air transportation.

Francois Mitterrand is expected to visit Uzbekistan's historical sights, including Khiva and Samarkand.

At the close of the visit, the presidents of France and Uzbekistan will hold a joint press conference.

On Wednesday morning, Francois Mitterrand will leave Tashkent for Ashkgabat.

Deputy Prime Minister Outlines Reform Package

LD2504092494 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 0817 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Hanover (DDP/ADN)—Uzbekistan is to open up to the market in a bigger way. The movement toward a market economy is to be speeded up by privatizing trade, opening up joint-stock companies to outsiders, and granting hard currency loans to private importers, Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister Utkur T. Sultanov said at the Hanover trade fair today.

At the first German-Uzbek economic convention he explained further aspects of his government's reform package. Trading and service companies will in the future be sold at a new stock exchange which is to be established. Foreigners who acquire more than 50 percent of a company and manufacture consumer goods will be exempt from taxes for five years. The planned Uzbekinvest insurance company is to insure foreign investment in the future. There are also plans to abolish import duties from July 1995.

The economic convention was organized by the German Business East-West Trade Committee together with German industry's cooperation office. The convention's central topic was barter trade. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Government Favors Universal CIS Currency

LD2204181394 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The government of Armenia favors the establishment of a universal currency for the CIS. Vardan Movsisyan, the republic's deputy minister of economy, said this today at a news conference. He disclosed that [words indistinct] was proposed to the members of the CIS economic union within the framework of the convention on the establishment of a single CIS payments union signed on 15 April this year in Moscow.

Movsisyan said the idea of establishing a universal currency for the CIS similar to the European ECU [European Currency Unit], envisages the creation of a financial reserve at the CIS Interstate Bank. Each republic would make a pro rata payment into this reserve, based on its GNP.

The deputy minister believes that this would enable the CIS states to survive the payments crisis, and would also be an effective way to establish exchange rates between the soft currencies of the CIS and to make them convertible among each other.

Emigration Becoming 'National Disaster'

PM2504091194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Emigration from Armenia Has Assumed Character of National Disaster"]

[Text] Yerevan—The "Unity" [Yedinstvo] Armenian independent trade union has called on the people of Yerevan to take to the city's streets on 1 May to announce to the authorities their determination to launch a struggle for the nation's survival.

The trade union's leaders illustrated the reality of national catastrophe with some quite impressive figures. A family of four now needs 2,500 drams to buy bread, salt, sugar, kerosene, and soap. The minimum wage in Armenia is just 176 drams—less than $1.

Unemployment is rising rapidly in the republic as a result of the collapse of the economy, and mass emigration from Armenia is assuming the character of a national disaster.

Just recently Armenia itself used to admit and accommodate Armenian expatriates from many countries. The last of them—an Armenian from Iran—returned home in November 1991. Since then the traffic has been one-way, out of Armenia. Various figures are cited, reflecting the process of emigration from the republic—between 300,000 and 800,000 in the past year. It is not easy to keep a precise account of the numbers leaving because the majority of them retain their residence permits, thus confusing the sociologists' and statisticians' charts. However, for a republic with a population of just 3 million, the departure of even 300,000 people is too much. And whereas people closed their eyes to this fact until recently, it is now causing serious concern to the authorities who are worried by the easily predictable demographic and social consequences of the mass exodus.

The first to feel those consequences are surely the military commissariats, which have received less than the expected number of draftees and older military reservists summoned to training camp. But even if the national army, which is in its formative stage, has somehow managed to cope with this task, you cannot say the same for the economic sphere.

At the moment the majority of enterprises are in a state of enforced idleness. But soon, when the machinery starts working at last, there will simply be no one to operate it. Many plants in Armenia today are staffed primarily by people of preretirement age who are coming to the end of their working lives. The younger and more energetic people are going into commerce which, incidentally, could only benefit everyone if they were starting up business on their own land instead of far from their native land.

It is not only entrepreneurs who are seeking their fortune in countries far and near but also construction workers, engineers, doctors, and teachers. These are mainly young or middle-aged people who in a certain sense constitute the hope and flower of the nation. You can find many of them today in the consular section of the Russian Embassy in Yerevan. They are trying to legalize their residence in Russia by obtaining Russian citizenship. The endless lines of people waiting to receive the relevant stamp in their passport have forced the consulate to temporarily stop accepting applications. Meanwhile the number of applicants for Russian citizenship continues to rise....

Armenian emigres prefer to settle in Moscow, Krasnodar, Stavropol, and Rostov. However, they are also seeking and finding shelter in other less promising regions in the belief that things cannot be worse than they are here.

The number of people wanting to go to the United States, Europe, and countries in the Near and Middle East has increased considerably. Besides the language barrier there is another obstacle on the road to the outside world, and that is the obvious reluctance of those countries to give refuge to these unfortunates with no capital of their own.

"In Armenia today there are 107,000 officially registered unemployed, 652,000 pensioners, 300,000 refugees, and around 100,000 invalids. Another 100,000 are living below the poverty line and need immediate help," Ashot Yesayan, Armenia's minister of labor and social security, explained.

These difficult times for Armenia cannot go on indefinitely but the sooner all those who have been forced to leave their land return, the sooner they will end. For the moment, however, the windows in many homes in Yerevan remain dark even on those rare evenings when the electricity supply is switched on. There is simply no one to switch the lights on.

integral part of society, citizens of the republic with full rights. He said that "Azerbaijan's multi-ethnicity, its different languages, and use of Russian in many spheres have played an important role in the development and making of the culture of the people of Azerbaijan."

Geydar Aliyev familiarized the Russian parliamentarians with the current situation in the conflict zone between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He said that Azerbaijan was making efforts toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict, but that the republic's interests have to be taken into account. Russia, in whom Azerbaijan holds great hopes, has not yet adopted a position in principle on this issue, he believes.

The leader of Azerbaijan believes that some progress in the peacekeeping process could be made if Russian President Boris Yeltsin were to visit the region. He said that this was proposed to the Russian leader and that Azerbaijan are ready to provide for his security during his stay here.

Parliament Considers Russian Settlement Plan

NC2304112094 Baku TURAN in English 0910 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 22) TURAN—Today the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan began discussions concerning the settlement plan of Russia of the Azeri-Armenian conflict.

Rasul Guliyev, Speaker of the Azeri Parliament noted that this plan was proposed in the Moscow CIS leaders Summit on April 14-15.

He also noted that he is due to leave for Moscow on April 25, during which time the meeting with Armenian representatives will discuss the abovementioned document.

Gasan Gasanov, the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan made a speech giving a summary of the settlement proposal. He noted that should Azerbaijan sign this document according to the version proposed by Moscow, Nagorno-Karabakh legally may leave Azerbaijan.

Gasanov also noted that "acceptance of the plan will give legitimacy to the ethnic cleansing of Karabakh and at the same time the cleansing of all local residents from the regions occupied by Armenians. The main fact is that the document does not provide for the return of Azerbaijanis to Karabakh. And it means that Azerbaijan will lose control of its vast territory" said Gasanov.

After the Azeri Foreign Minister's speech, most deputies of the Azeri Parliament called the plan "a cynical humiliation of the national dignity of Azerbaijan. This plan means that Azerbaijan will be one of humiliation before final capitulation."

The session of Milli Majlis will continue after the break.

Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin on Baku Visit

Meets With Aliyev

NC2404192294 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev received Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and his delegation today. After welcoming the visiting delegation, President Aliyev briefed the Turkish diplomats on the social and political developments in Azerbaijan. Referring to the fighting in Azerbaijan, Aliyev said that while Armenia's aggression against the republic has intensified, Azerbaijan's people hoped that the countries around the world, particularly Turkey, would take resolute steps to end the aggression. However, Aliyev said: Regrettably, regarding the UN resolutions and the CSCE effort, a satisfactory outcome is impossible. This is because Armenia's aggression, which has continued for six years, [words indistinct]. An effective solution cannot be [words indistinct].

Foreign Minister Cetin said that Turkey cannot be reconciled with a country that occupies Azerbaijan's territory. He also noted that Turkey will always support Azerbaijan's efforts to defend its territory.

Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov, First Deputy Prime Minister Fuad Sharipov, State Advisers [name indistinct] and Vefa Gulizade, and Altan Karamanoglu, Turkey's ambassador to Azerbaijan, attended the meeting.

Cetin, Hasanov Hold Talks

LD2404134494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1236 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayev and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 24 Apr—Ways to implement the Azerbaijani-Turkish accords reached during Heydar Aliyev's official visit to Ankara were discussed this afternoon at talks held in the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry between Hasan Hasanov and Hikmet Cetin, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Turkey. The Turkish foreign minister arrived in Baku at around midday on a short working visit.

Also examined at the talks were questions linked to the current situation in the area of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and ways to settle the conflict within the framework of the CSCE Minsk group. According to the information available, the sides held political consultations on questions concerning Azerbaijan's forthcoming entry into the NATO 'Partnership for Peace' program and the republic's relations with non-aligned states, as well as a number of problems of mutual interest.

Cetin Expresses Support for Azerbaijan

TA2404144794 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1420 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Baku, April 24 (A.A)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said today that Turkey will continue supporting the just cause of Azerbaijan.

Cetin, who arrived in the Azeri capital for a one-day working visit, visited his Azerbaijani counterpart Hasan Hasanov in his office.

Before the talks between the two delegations, Cetin said that his visit was another indication of the friendship between the two countries.

Cetin said that political and economic relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan were rapidly developing and that the two countries have already signed cooperation agreements on all fields.

Cetin pointed out that the world would not accept seize of land by force and the aggressive policy and invasion of Armenia was against the principles of Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

On his part, Hasanov said that they wanted to further relations with Turkey.

Cetin Urges Sanctions on Armenia

LD2404205594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2033 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku April 25 TASS—Three-hour talks between Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Azeri President Geydar Aliyev were completed here late at night on Sunday. The meeting was mostly held behind closed doors.

The talks were focused on the Armenian-Azeri conflict over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave and ways for its settlement. According to the Azeri leader, efforts by international organizations, including the United Nations, the CSCE and its Minsk group, failed to produce any positive results. Seeking to end the protracted warfare by any means, the republic accepted Russia's mediatory initiatives. However, all attempts to solve the thorny problem have been in vain so far. The only obvious thing is that the Armenian side is forcing Azerbaijan to agree to its terms, which do not meet the republic's national interests, Aliyev emphasised.

The Turkish foreign minister believes that "the world community should at last understand clearly that Azerbaijan is forced to wage war in order to defend its territories." Cetin dismissed the principle of equal responsibility of both conflicting sides for the continued fighting, since "aggression is aimed against Azerbaijan." He pledged that "Turkey would uphold this position at all international forums."

The Turkish foreign minister told a news conference after the talks that "Armenia should meet the demands of U.N. Security Council resolutions, and to withdraw its troops from occupied Azeri lands immediately and unconditionally." In case it continues ignoring these demands, the world community should impose sanctions upon the republic, Cetin stressed. As for Turkey, it will not lift the embargo for supplies of foodstuffs and medicines to Armenia until the republic halts the aggression against Azerbaijan.

According to the Turkish foreign minister, the current deadlock in the peace process can be broken by convening a session of the Minsk conference. However, this is possible only in case of liberation of Azeri territories. Therefore, Russia, the United States and other Minsk group countries should step up their efforts to create conditions for the session to be convened.

Speaking about deployment of peacekeeping troops in the conflict zone, Cetin emphasised that "Turkey strongly believes these can be only international forces, not troops of any definite country."

The Turkish foreign minister assessed his short-term visit to the Azeri capital Baku as "very fruitful." According to his Azeri counterpart Hasan Hasanov, this visit testified to Azerbaijan's stable and consistent relations with Turkey, to which the republic gives top priority in its foreign policy.

Update on Situation at Front

NC2304111294 Baku TURAN in English 0910 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 22) TURAN—Last night Armenian troops continued attacking along the entire frontline, reports the press centre of Azerbaijan Defense Ministry.

The Armenian army attacked the southern section of the front (Fizuli-Beylagan) three times. The Azeri army managed to liberate the village of Ashagy-Abdurakhmanly and several strategically important heights. During the fighting three of Armenia's tanks and one military personnel carrier were destroyed and several dozens of Armenian soldiers were killed. The Azeri army captured five machine-guns, one flame-thrower cluster, four grenade discharger cups, and dozens of sub-machine guns.

Fierce fighting in the eastern direction (Agdam-Terter) of the front took place throughout the night where the Armenian army tried to break through the defense of the Azeri army. But attempts by the Armenian army failed since the Azeri army was subject to fire upon the position of Armenian troops in this direction. Approximately 50 Armenian soldiers were killed in this section of the front.

This morning the Armenian army fired upon the village of Tap-Karakayully of the Geranboy region.

At the same times border posts of the Azeri army in the Tauzskiy region were subjected to fire from the Idzhevanskiy region of Armenia.

Fierce Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Zone

LD2304160994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] As before, the situation in the zone of the Karabakh conflict remains tense. The press service of the Nagorno-Karabakh defense army reported to Interfax that over the previous 24 hours active hostilities were being waged on the greater part of the confrontation line. Fierce hostilities do not stop at the south-eastern part of the Karabakh front where the Azerbaijani forces try to break the defense line on the Martunin and Fizuli directions being supported by a great number of armored vehicles and combat aviation.

According to the press service, last night Karabakh positions were attacked at two sections of Karabakh's Martunin region, near the populated center of Kuropatkino and in the region of Agburun. Experiencing great losses (according to preliminary information, as many as 50 soldiers were killed on mine fields), the Azerbaijani army managed to move forward and to seize three Karabakh posts.

However, in two hours, the Karabakh formations started a counterattack and by the morning of April 23 moved the adversary to his starting positions. The Karabakh army lost two people were killed and nine wounded in the course of these hostilities.

Simultaneously the headquarters of the Karabakh defense army refuted information of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry stating that a great number of fighters had allegedly joined the Azerbaijani army. These reports have been qualified "as pure falsification intended to conceal facts of mass desertion of Azerbaijani soldiers."

The border of the former Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region has been practically restored after the recent counterattack of the Karabakh forces which liberated six villages in the north of the Mardakert region, the leader of the Karabakh army press center Serzh Arushanian reported to Interfax. In his words, as of today only a small territory of the Mardakert region which includes several villages, including the largest village Leninavan in the north-east of the region is still under control of the Azerbaijani forces.

In addition, Arushanian said that the Shaumian region is still occupied though it has been part of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic since September 1991.

Karabakh Forces Shoot Down Azeri Bomber

LD2304172994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Ministry press service told Interfax that the Karabakh air-defense forces had shot down a SU-25 Azerbaijani jet which had tried to bomb Stepanakert (the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh). A total of seven Azerbaijani jets had taken part in the air attack, Stepanakert said.

However, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry announced that an Azerbaijani jet had suffered a clash on April 23 when carrying out a regular training flight. The pilot baled out and was saved, Baku affirmed.

Conflicting Reports on Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2404143194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] According to the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan, last night Armenian troops launched an offensive on the Terter and Geranboy directions in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh, but suffered heavy losses and failed to achieve any significant success.

Meanwhile, completely opposite reports are coming from Armenian sources. According to a statement by the press service of the staff of the defense army of Nagorno-Karabakh, this morning Azerbaijani troops went on to the offensive in the Fizulinskiy [Fizuli] and Mardakertskiy [Mardakert] Rayons, but all their attacks were repelled and on several sections the Karabakh detachments managed to seize strategic heights.

The Armenian side also reports large losses suffered by the enemy in today's fighting. These were INTERFAX and RIA reports.

Karabakh Army Reports Successful Counteroffensive

LD2504122894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] During a successful counteroffensive on April 24, Karabakh formations destroyed the Azerbaijani firing points east of the regional center of Mardakert and the village of Talysh in the Mardakert Region, the Karabakh defense army's press service told INTERFAX.

Karabakh formations lost seven soldiers, a tank and an armored vehicle; 19 Karabakh soldiers were wounded. Azerbaijan lost 80 soldiers, three tanks and one armored vehicle. Another Azerbaijani tank was taken as a trophy.

According to the headquarters of the Karabakh army, the Azerbaijani units fighting in the northeast of the Mardakert Region are panic-ridden and the front has practically broken up. POWs say that Azerbaijani police units which acted as an anti-desertion force, were the first to flee.

According to the latest reports, in the morning of April 25 there was no fighting in Karabakh.

Meanwhile, an informed source in the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry told INTERFAX that fierce fighting continued yesterday in the Geranboi, Terter, Agdam, and Fizuli regions of Azerbaijan. All Armenian attacks were rebuffed. The same source says that Armenians suffered large losses.

In the Fizuli Region, Azerbaijani units occupied a number of strategic heights not far from this regional center controlled by Armenians, said the source.

Aliyev Postpones Trip Due to War Escalation

NC2304195594 Baku TURAN in English 1723 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baku, April 23 (TURAN)—"Azeri President Geydar Aliyev has been forced to postpone his visit to Brussels due to the escalation of Armenian aggression", said the Presidential apparat's press-service. The visit, which was planned on April 26, was put off for a week.

During the visit, Azerbaijan's participation in NATO's programme, "Partnership for the sake of peace", will be discussed.

Last week, during the press-conference, Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov told journalists that "the possibility of Azerbaijan's joining the NATO programme is being reviewed by the Azeri Government and Azerbaijan will give its final answer in the near future.

Baburin Leads Russian State Duma Delegation to Baku

NC2304203794 Baku TURAN in English 1723 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baku, April 23 (TURAN)—A delegation from Russia's State Duma headed by Sergey Baburin has arrived in Baku at the invitation of the head of the Russian Community in Azerbaijan, Vladimir Zabelin. The mission, representing the faction of "Russia's Way" also includes deputies Ivan Anichkin, Anatoliy Grishnyavikov, Sergey Glotov.

This morning the delegation was accepted by Rasul Guliyev, the Speaker of Parliament of Azerbaijan where a wide range of discussions concerning the interparliamentary and intergovernmental questions were discussed.

Following the meeting the delegation was accepted by the Azeri President Aliyev. During the meeting Aliyev discussed future relations of Azerbaijan with Russia, and noted that "both countries are suffering difficult conditions where our joint efforts may help to eliminate the difficulties."

Speaking about the Armenian aggression, Aliyev said that "we had expected Russia to play a just and objective role".

Aliyev noted that the fates of more than one million Azeri refugees, whom many countries are helping. "Why is Russia not assisting the these Azeri refugees?" asked Aliyev.

The Azeri President also talked about the resumption of economic links between the two countries. "Today not only Azerbaijan, Russia, as well, is suffering from the break in economic links with us".

In reply, Sergey Baburin said that "today reviewing the Azeri- Armenian conflict there is a double standard, and I don't understand the position of those who speak about Azerbaijani aggression at the present when considerable territory of Azerbaijan has been seized."

Baburin said that the delegation is scheduled to visit to the front line and meet with refugees and report to the State Duma and commission leaders about the visit upon return.

The fact-finding mission's function is also to look into the situation of the Russian-speaking population in Azerbaijan. "Azerbaijan is the most favoured republic among the CIS countries in respect to this question".

Speaking of the establishment of economic ties, Baburin said, "that when the CIS countries re-establish contact amongst themselves or amongst countries abroad, and when Russia interferes in this process, this is bad for Russia."

Baburin Charges Armenia 'Aggressor'

LD2404144794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] A Russian parliamentary delegation visiting Armenia was due to visit on Sunday the front line in the republic's current war with Armenia and Azerbaijan's districts along the Armenian border, the Azerbaijani parliamentary press service said.

It said the delegation, headed by Sergey Baburin, leader of the Russian Pan-National Union, planned to make a report on the situation in the war zone to the Russian parliament.

Baburin said in Baku on Saturday that he did not support Russia's official position on the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict. He said the aggressor was easy to identify, "must be curbed" and leave the occupied lands. "The side which has seized the lands is the aggressor," he said, meaning Armenia, at a meeting with representatives of Azerbaijan's Russian-speaking community, who said both the Azerbaijani government and the country's society at large were friendly towards them. But they accused Moscow of pursuing a pro-Armenian policy, which, they complained, cast a shadow on that friendliness.

Baburin plans to return to Moscow on Monday.

Alliance of National-Democratic Parties Created

NC2304204994 Baku TURAN in English 1723 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Baku, April 23 (TURAN)—Yesterday the parties of "Boz Gurd", United Azerbaijan, Young Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijan National-Democratic Party created the alliance of National-Democratic parties.

"The goal of the alliance is to mobilize all forces of the nation to withstand Armenian's aggression, to safeguard territorial integrity and Azeri borders, to protect human rights, principles of democracy, and the traditions and culture of the Azeri nation", according to the mission of the alliance that was read at a press conference.

Representatives of the parties criticized the internal and external policy of the current leadership of the country.

"The staff appointment policy of the Azeri leadership is based on bribery", said the Chairman of "Boz Gurd" party, Bakhtiyar Akhmedov.

According to Iskander Gamidov, "Alliance differs from the Democratic Congress, other blocs and democratic parties. It gives first priority to the national problem."

He mentioned that the alliance is in opposition to the Azeri leadership. He said that the Alliance will protest all acts that run counter to the national interests of Azerbaijan will be submitted to the interests of other countries. [sentence as received]

Georgia

Mediator Says Georgia, Abkhazia Moving Apart

LD2204125394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] During their talks in Geneva, the Georgian and Abkhaz delegations "adopted mutually exclusive positions, backing farther away from the commitments they signed in the political declaration of 4 April." Feliks

Kovalev, the roving ambassador who is heading the Russian delegation, said this in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Summing up the results of the Geneva round, he disclosed that, on behalf of the United Nations and the Russian Federation, "options for a compromise were proposed, and the parties expressed readiness, in essence, to adopt them as a basis for further discussions." "The next session will be held in Moscow on 10 May, and we may be able to make a little more progress there than we have managed on this occasion."

Two documents proposed by the mediators will be discussed at the meeting in the Russian capital. The first deals with "political and legal elements of a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict." The second concerns "proposals on the establishment of a coordinating commission." The documents were jointly prepared by UN and Russian diplomats. Kovalev said that the Russian delegation "made a substantial contribution."

Is there any chance the two sides will reach an agreement? "It is very difficult to answer this question," F. Kovalev noted. "Judging by their drafts, they have not budged from their original positions. In fact, they are going backward rather than forward." The main problem is connected with Abkhazia's political status. "One side wants to regard itself as an independent state entering into a treaty relationship with another state. That is the Abkhazian starting point. The starting point of the Georgians is to keep everything roughly as it was before the conflict started," the diplomat said.

The United Nations and Russia are proposing a "union state." Their proposals also say that the parties recognize the territorial integrity of the entity they might establish as a result of the talks, Kovalev concluded.

Shevardnadze Envoy Hopeful Over Abkhaz Talks

LD2304134494 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1210 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The final meeting in the Abkhazian-Georgian peace talks was held in Geneva yesterday. Despite maximum efforts made by Georgia, participants in this round of talks failed to reach a compromise over the definition of a political status for Abkhazia. The next round of talks will be held in Moscow on 10 May. Russia will probably be able to influence Abkhazia at home. It has apparently had a chance of this before, too, but evidently waited for an appropriate moment and circumstances.

A compromise formula suggested by Russia and the United Nations will be discussed during the Moscow round of talks. This formula, which was proposed back in Geneva but not discussed, says that Abkhazia will be a subject which will be granted sovereign rights within a union state. There was not sufficient time for this formula to be discussed during the Geneva round of talks. However, sovereign rights and a union state sound a little suspicious. At least, this does not sound very encouraging for Georgia. It seems that the Georgian side is forced to recede from its positions both on the battlefield and at the negotiating table.

According to an official version, two documents will comprise the basis of the Moscow discussions. These will be the UN and Russian suggestions on the political and legislative basics of an all-embracing settlement and the establishment of a coordinating commission with the participation of the negotiating parties as well as UN and Russian diplomats. The coordinating commission is expected to be assigned to handle practical issues pertaining to supply, transport, and communications.

To cut a long story short, yet another round of negotiations is still to come and there is still something to pin hopes on.

Aleksandre Kavsadze, the Georgian head of state's personal envoy, is in hopeful mood, believing that there is a chance to come to an agreement about the deployment of peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone. He has added that Georgia insists on the deployment of these forces across the whole territory of the conflict in order to secure the safe return of Georgian refugees to their homes.

UN Delay in Sending Troops to Abkhazia Criticized

LD2304211194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 23 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Another round of Georgian-Abkhaz talks held last week in Geneva still did not produce any tangible results. Although the fact that the talks are being held at all is in itself a positive development. The Georgian side's position on the return of refugees to Galskiy Rayon remains unchanged: Their safety has to be ensured. As for Abkhazia's political status, the United Nations has produced a document on setting up a coordinating council, which is to operate until the conflict is completely settled.

It has also become known that Jaba Ioseliani, head of the Georgian delegation, has expressed resentment with the stand taken by the United Nations, which decided not to send its peacekeeping contingent to the area until this August. According to Ioseliani, it is quite possible that Georgia will accept the proposal put forward by the Russian Federation, which offered to send its forces to Abkhaz territory as soon as possible.

But in the view of Aleksandr Kavsadze, the head of state's personal envoy for the settlement of the conflict, all prerequisites exist even now for the UN Security Council to make a decision to deploy international peacekeeping forces on the entire territory of Abkhazia.

Abkhazian Deputy Kakubava Abducted

LD2304142194 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1315 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 23 Apr—At nine o'clock yesterday Boris Kakubava, a deputy in the Georgian parliament and chairman of the Abkhazian Liberation Union, was abducted after he had taken part in an Alioni program on Georgian television.

Threatening to execute him, the kidnappers demanded that Boris Kakubava cancel the congress of the displaced Abkhazian population scheduled to he held in Tbilisi 23-25 April. The organizers of the terrorist act seem to be afraid that the congress could make the Georgian leaders' political course on the Abkhazian issue look negative. A probable tragic end has been prevented by the prompt intervention of the Abkhazian Liberation Union.

This, as well as other events (delegates of the congress have been denied transport by rayon authorities; transport routes have been closed), demonstrates a desire of the authorities to prevent the congress.

The Abkhazian Liberation Union places the entire responsibility for the incident and its consequences on the leadership of the Republic of Georgia.

This statement was made public by the press service of the Abkhazian Liberation Union at a news conference in Tbilisi on 23 April.

Crackdown on Terrorism, Corruption Announced

LD2204190194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] At a meeting between the parliamentary leadership and law-enforcement officials in Tbilisi Friday, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze announced the beginning of a crackdown on terrorism and corruption. "Neither I nor the security service will rest until we catch the murderer of Deputy Interior Minister Giya Gulua," he was quoted as saying.

Shevardnadze called corruption "the biggest danger facing the country." He added that "it will devour all Georgia, and dreams of democracy will remain a fairy tale."

Shevardnadze instructed the Interior Ministry, security service, prosecutor's and judicial bodies and the whole government to develop a draft decree on tighter corruption controls, including specific tasks, within ten days.

Shevardnadze, Local Administration Heads Meet

LD2404143794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] The Georgian head of state held a meeting with the heads of local administrations of Georgia yesterday. The meeting was opened by Teimuraz Pipia, head of the directorate of regional management, who considered problems of all rayons in one context.

Zurab Gegechkori [chairman of the state committee on land resources] spoke about the process of privatization. He said there were numerous problems in the issue of distributing land and moot problems pertaining to land issues that existed in relations between rayons had to be settled. He also pointed out there were instances of unlawful seizure of lands.

Next to take floor was Georgian Education Minister Tamaz Kvachantiradze, who spoke about problems pertaining to the system of education in rayons. He said salaries of school teachers had been considerably increased. Teachers working full time will earn 900,000 coupons [per month]. It was added that a promotion like this granted to teachers would not solve all problems existing in the system of education. The minister requested assistance from the heads of rayon administrations.

Other problems of rayons were also given consideration at the meeting.

In conclusion, Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state, made a speech. He made an appraisal of the meeting and set appropriate tasks and instructions for the heads of rayon administrations.

Russia Cancels Duties on Georgian Goods

LD2304095094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] According to SAKINPORM, Georgia's customs department has received a letter from the Customs Committee of the Russian Federation signed by Kruglyakov, first deputy chairman of the committee. The letter says: Because the Republic of Georgia has been a member of the CIS since 1 March 1994, in accordance with the edict issued by the Russian Federation Customs Committee, the heads of its regional departments and customs houses have been officially instructed not to levy a tax in the form of VAT, special duties, and excise duties on goods produced in Georgia and carried from the Georgian territory retroactive to 1 March 1994. Money already paid for the above-mentioned taxes should be refunded from the customs house account or it can be applied to future payments.

Terrorist Organization Claims Killings

LD2304153594 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1315 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Batumi 23 [April]—A terrorist organization naming itself Jigaro spread leaflets in Batumi. They are stating that they are a political-terrorist organization.

According to the leaflets, Jigaro claims several terrorist acts including the killing of the police chief in Khelvachauri Rayon and explains this by a struggle against injustice.

Jigaro also warns top officials of the Adzharia Autonomous Republic that unless they stop violating human rights and carrying out ruinous policy in the autonomous republic, they will be physically eliminated.

Estonia

Ukrainian, Estonian Presidents Discuss Weapons

LD2204174494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk takes an understanding attitude to the Estonian request that Ukraine might supply Estonia with military equipment and weapons within the framework of its conventional weapon reduction. According to the Estonian president's press service, Leonid Kravchuk spoke to Estonian President Lennart Meri on the telephone. According to the Estonian Defense Forces Command, Ukraine is considering whether it can spare Estonia any weapons left over within the weapons reduction program. Estonian military men are holding similar talks with their U.S. counterparts. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Concludes Visit to Ukraine

WS2204200694 Tallinn BNS in English 1906 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, Apr 22, BNS—Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik ended today his official visit to Ukraine. During the visit Kannik and his Ukrainian counterpart, Gen. Vitaliy Radetskyy, signed an agreement on cooperation between the two countries' defense ministries. Kannik invited Radetskyy for a visit to Estonia.

Kannik told BNS today Ukraine's independence means also Estonia's independence. He said the relations between the two countries are steadily improving.

"Estonian-Ukrainian relations are reaching the stage of concrete cooperation," Kannik said. "The questions of possible weapons purchases will be solved on the expert level. We are very much interested in the agreement on conventional arms reduction Ukraine has signed," the defense minister told BNS.

"The Estonian-Russian and Ukrainian-Russian relations have reached very delicate dimensions, so we need one another all the more," the minister claimed.

The agreement Kannik and Radetskyy signed on April 20 is a framework agreement that maps out different opportunities for cooperation in the defense sphere, including consultations on the formation and financing of defense forces and joint action within NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

Other issues discussed at the meeting of the defense ministers included international peacekeeping operations, the state of Estonian-Russian and Ukrainian-Russian relations, division of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet, and tensions around the Crimean peninsula.

The Ukrainian defense minister told BNS Russian troops must leave Estonia by the proposed withdrawal deadline of Aug. 31, 1994. "Russian military bases on your territory are your domestic affair and the decision whether to retain them is up to you," he noted. Radetskyy did not support granting Russian military retirees a special status in Estonia. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Confers With UN Secretary General

WS2204163394 Tallinn BNS in English 1005 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 22, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, who is on an official visit to the United States, met yesterday with the U.N. Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali.

Butros-Ghali was pleased with Estonia's participation in the formation of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion. He promised his assistance to Estonia, if needed, in issues related to the withdrawal of Russian troops from the country. Butros-Ghali said the United Nations attaches great importance to forging ties with new member states.

Laar informed the U.N. secretary general about the recent International Labor Organization anniversary conference in Tallinn and Estonians' participation in peacekeeping missions in the Nordic countries' peacekeeping units.

The Estonian premier also gave a survey of Estonia's recent history, the reforms in society and the problems related to the continued presence of Russian troops in the country, such as increase in troop-related crime, enormous damage to the environment, and the danger posed by the Paldiski nuclear reactors.

Laar touched briefly on the general need to take into account and protect the interests of small countries, especially with a view to their security.

The U.N. secretary general affirmed that the organization represents the interests of all its member states. He underscored the importance of the participation of an Estonian delegation in the upcoming U.N. conferences and summit meetings.

Laar continued his visit to the United States in Boston. He talked at Harvard University about Estonian economy.

The Estonian premier is accompanied by Foreign Ministry Chancellor Indrek Tarand, his private secretary Toomas Kiho and adviser to the government Ardo Hansson.

Laar returns to Estonia on April 25.

Legislative Foreign Affairs Commissions Meet

WS2204163194 Tallinn ETA in English 0819 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From 22 April EESTI SENUMID, PAEVALEHT, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 77/94]

[Text] Friday, April 22—Representatives of parliamentary foreign affairs commissions of eleven countries met in Tallinn yesterday to discuss their role in the shaping of foreign policy.

The commission chairmen meeting held a news conference yesterday, describing the issued discussed and the results of the meeting. Chairman of the Riigikogu [parliament] foreign affairs commission and initiator of the meeting Vello Saatpalu described the topics as the making of foreign policy by the different arms of power, the technology of foreign policy and the role of traditions and laws.

Estonia has an excellent opportunity to take over the best experience of existing systems, he stressed.

Riigikogu Vice-chairman Tunne Kelam pointed out that representatives of various political systems were represented, enabling to learn about different foreign political traditions.

Saatpalu criticised some examples of Estonia's recent past when vital decisions had been made without involving all the relevant institutions and cited the example of Russia where the positions of the president, the foreign minister and the defence minister can widely differ. He hoped that such meetings will become regular.

Foreign Minister Juri Luik and Tunne Kelam met Chairman of the Swedish parliamentary foreign affairs commission Daniel Tarschys, who was recently elected new Secretary General of the Council of Europe [CE]. They discussed the future of the CE and the Estonian-Russian relations. Tarschys stressed that Russia will have to meet the CE requirements before joining the organisation, including the one allowing member states to keep their troops in other countries only with the consent of these countries.

Friendship, Cooperation Pact With Hungary Ratified

WS2504100294 Tallinn BNS in English 1238 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 23, BNS—Ambassadors Jaak Joeruut of Estonia and Bela Javorszky of Hungary exchanged Friday [22 April] in Helsinki letters of ratification of the Estonian-Hungarian friendship and cooperation agreement, the Foreign Ministry press service told BNS.

The two countries declare in the pact that their relations are based on international legal norms and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, equal rights, non-interference in one another's internal affairs, good-neighborliness, mutual trust, and advantageous cooperation.

The parties keep in mind that the security of Estonia and Hungary is inseparably linked with the security of all states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe process.

Both states are prepared to engage in effective cooperation in international organizations and they attach great importance to developing collaboration between their legislative and executive bodies, the local government level included. The foreign ministers of the two countries must meet at least once a year to discuss, among other issues, the implementation of the effective pact.

The parties to the agreement pledge to coordinate their efforts in mutually advantageous economic cooperation and to promote business contacts and direct links. The agreement provides for all- round cooperation in transport, easing of passenger and goods transport regulations and passport and customs checking procedures, and development of tourism.

Close cooperation is foreseen in improving data processing and communications systems, in science, technology and environment protection, and all spheres of culture. Under the agreement, Estonia and Hungary will take steps to protect ethnic minorities. They also state their readiness for concerted action against organized crime, terrorism and drug traffic.

Dismantling of Paldiski Reactors Slows Down

WS2204174694 Tallinn BNS in English 1312 GMT 22 April 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 22, BNS—Estonia is ready to go ahead with the dismantling of the nuclear reactors in Paldiski, Juri Tikk, the special government representative in Paldiski, told BNS.

Tikk thought the dismantling of the reactors and removal of nuclear fuel from Estonia might start early in May. He said the Russian side has run into some difficulties with the technical side of the operation, which prevents it from setting things in motion. The Russian customs officials at Kingissepp have detained a container without which the dismantling cannot begin, Tikk claimed.

The government representative said that a Russian landing ship stands ready in Paldiski's South Port to receive the parts of the dismantled reactors.

Russia wants to conclude a joint agreement on the removal of fuel and on the dismantling of the reactors. Estonia stands firm that both operations must be regulated by separate treaties. "We still don't know how (Russia plans) to handle the dismantling of the reactors and their removal from Paldiski," Tikk said. But, he said, the removal of nuclear fuel has been finalized down to the last detail.

BNS has information nuclear fuel will be removed from Paldiski by rail. Tikk declined to conform or deny the report. "Whichever kind of transport is used, safety will be guaranteed in any case," he stated.

Tikk claimed the most hazardous stage of the operation is opening of the reactor lid. "Yet, even if radioactive vapor should escape, it won't pose a very great danger since the cloud will disperse soon," he maintained.

Jan Christer Lindhe, a researcher from the Swedish National Radioactivity Protection Institute, also voiced the opinion that the reactors don't constitute a big threat to the environment. "It's more of a political problem," he claimed.

"Should an accident occur, we shan't keep it secret," Tikk declared. Estonia monitors continuously the radiation level around the reactors and if something occurs there that the Russian side would like to hush up, Estonia will spread the news through all mass media channels.

The Estonian Government decided on April 12 to enforce a special regime on the Pakri peninsula where Paldiski is situated to ensure the safety of the dismantling operation and the population.

New Patriotic Organization 'Parem Eesti' Formed

WS2204111494 Tallinn ETA in English 0655 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From 21 April EESTI SENUMID, P.EVALEHT, HOMMIKULEHT, pp 1, 3, 4; "News Bulletin" No. 76/94]

[Text] The 10 right-wing parties and organisations that met in Tallinn on Tuesday [19 April] formed a new organisation "Parem Eesti" (Better Estonia), a news conference was told yesterday ("Parem" can mean both "better" or "rightwing" in Estonian and a founding member Hellar Grabbi claimed the ambiguity to be deliberate).

The activists of the new organisation stressed that they did not invite the ruling coalition members, since their policy has been disappointing. Another fringe party, the Future Estonia Party, refused to participate because of ideological difference. Negotiations with some other organisations are in progress, but the results have not been disclosed yet. One of the initiators, Juri Estam, stressed that the organisation will not cooperate with right-wing extremists, referring to the Patriotic Central Union.

The initiators denied having formed the organisation for improving their chances at the elections; the aim was to actually restore the Estonian nation state, the organisation statement read. A political party or an electoral union may be formed, but there is no firm decision on that issue as yet.

The "Better Estonia" intends to use decolonisation and desovietisation in order to achieve its aims. Green Party chairman Juri Liim stressed that they intend to employ "civilised decolonisation" by appealing to the Russian Government to recall its colonists. A thorough investigation of the activities of the Communist Party and the KGB and the GRU [Soviet Army Intelligence] in Estonia was also mentioned as an important part of the programme. Further items include rapid return of land and property to the legal owners and support to private ownership.

The organisation denounced the draft law of the Tallinn City Council recommending that all persons registered as permanent residents of Tallinn as of 1 July 1990 be granted permanent residence permits. The council is exceeding its authority, the "Better Estonia" declared.

Latvia

U.S. Envoy Presents Gore Letter to Prime Minister

WS2204200394 Tallinn BNS in English 1906 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 22, BNS—Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs received U.S. Ambassador Ints Silins who handed over a letter from his country's Vice President Al Gore, the Government Information Agency (VIA) told BNS on Friday [22 April].

Silins reiterated the unambiguous support of the U.S. Administration for the March 15 initialed agreements on Russian troop withdrawal. The signing of the documents would allow international organizations to involve in the control of their implementation, Silins said.

Silins reconfirmed the United States' commitment to allot 2 million dollars to dismantle the new building of the Russian- operated radar facility at Skrunda as soon as the withdrawal package is signed.

VIA failed to inform BNS about the content of Al Gore's letter but presumably it contains the same idea as Silins said.

Russian Negotiator Says Pact Must Be Signed

WS2504092594 Tallinn BNS in English 1549 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 23, BNS—If Latvia refuses to sign the whole package of initialed troop withdrawal documents, including the section on social guarantees of military retirees, Russia may halt the pullout indefinitely, said chief Russian negotiator Sergey Zotov.

"I can officially say that the question in that case will be about immediate suspension of Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and cancellation of decision on Aug. 31 as withdrawal deadline," Zotov told a Latvian newspaper Friday [22 April].

"The end of August is not far away and if the signing of all four agreements is longer delayed we will start to suspect Latvia of an intention to evade the signature," Zotov told the nationwide DIENA newspaper.

The Russian delegation head asked Latvians not to overdramatize the situation, though. He and his delegation plan to tour Riga next week to meet with Latvian negotiators. No concrete date for the meeting has been fixed yet.

The trip will be aimed at preparing the visit of Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis in Moscow during which he will meet with his Latvian counterpart Boris Yeltsin, said Zotov.

Zotov claimed that the day of the presidential summit was unknown yet but Latvian media reported earlier this week that the presidents would meet on April 30.

Latvian experts spent in Moscow three days this week and met with Russian colleagues in a bid to soften the agreement on social guarantees for military pensioners, sources told DIENA.

A source said that Latvia can hope for little and not serious changes in the agreement on Russian war pensioners, which grant them broad social guarantees, like easy access to residency permits.

As reported, Russia expected Ulmanis to sign the package April 21 but the Latvian parliament failed to adopt a decision authorizing him to do so.

GATT Membership Conditions Discussed

WS2204153494 Riga LETA in English 1152 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, 22 April (LETA)—Thursday [21 April] in the Latvian Foreign Ministry a news conference was held by the leader of a GATT working group, Finn Teilgard, who visits Riga to discuss the conditions of Latvia entering this organization with the Latvian Administration. In the course of his visit he met the Latvian prime minister, Valdis Birkavs, the Saeima's [parliament] chairman, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, and some Latvian ministers and experts.

Mr. Teilgard said that he told the Latvian Government about the six basic principles of this organization which is mainly purposed for the promotion of international cooperation and the development of trade among its 124 member country. The first condition providing the participation in GATT is that Latvia has to work out the memorandum on the state political and economic situations plus the documents reflecting the current external trade procedure in the country and send them to the GATT headquarters.

The leadership of GATT shows its understanding of the present economic situation in Latvia, and will take it into account when the issue of Latvia's participation in GATT is under discussion, Mr. Teilgard said.

Prime Minister Talks With EU Team

WS2204153594 Riga LETA in English 1152 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, 22 April (LETA)—The focal point of the meeting of the Latvian Government's head, Valdis Birkavs, with the delegation of the European Union [EU] was what issues Latvia wishes to discuss at the conference in Paris scheduled for late May and dedicated to the European stability pact.

The governmental information agency reports that Valdis Birkavs confirmed his willingness to take an active part in the European stability pact. Speaking on the issues Latvia would like to consider during the coming conference in Paris, the prime minister said Latvia is interested to involve into the discussion with other countries of the issues of national identity preserving, national minorities' integration into a society and teaching a state language.

Latvia would wish to view the possibility of launching the ombudsman institution. The issue of the repatriation of Russian military retirees is of the same importance and needs consideration in the context of the stability pact. All these matters Latvia would like to discuss at the multilateral talks.

Mentioning the issue of the borders with Russia, Birkavs expressed doubt whether it is comprehensive to discuss the issue at the coming conference and stressed the fact that Latvia is forming its stand basing upon the peace pact of 1920 between the two states.

Government To Abolish Salaspils Reactor

LD2204190694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Today at the Environment and Regional Development Ministry, Minister Indulis Emsis, officials of the Salaspils atomic reactor, scientists, and nuclear safety experts agreed in principle on abolishing the Salaspils scientific research atomic reactor. [passage omitted]

Changes to Law on Foreigners Adopted

WS2504100594 Riga DIENA in Latvian 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Karlis Erglis: "Government Changes Law on Foreign Citizens"]

[Text] Riga, 14 Apr—During its session today, the government adopted changes to the law "On foreign citizens and stateless persons visiting and staying in the Latvian Republic," as well as supplements to the law "On police" concerning the creation of an immigration police, within the framework of the state police. As was explained by Inese Birzniece, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights, the amendments which have been adopted in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution, refer to people who have entered Latvia illegally, and they have been adopted with the purpose of establishing procedures for removing these people from the state.

The changes in the law, which are said to fully correspond with the CSCE mission in Latvia, are not yet accepted in their full form, therefore it was impossible to learn today the precise procedure for deportations and possible appeals. However, as we were told by I. Birzniece, "it is out of the question that some mass deportations could take place." It is stated in the amendments that they do not apply to people whose legal status in Latvia is not clear, and regarding whom the legislative process has not yet been completed. I. Birzniece emphasized that the draft law on the status of noncitizens should be accepted as soon as possible.

According to the changes, the border guards and state police will have the sole right to deport the above mentioned people, whereas these individuals shall have the right to appeal the decision to the director of the Immigration Department or in a court of law, I. Birzniece explained to DIENA.

According to a report by Edvins Inkens, the minister for special assignments, at a press conference, 400 people were deported from Latvia last year. There was not a single appeal submitted in any of the cases, which proves that the deportations were correct and well based.

Lithuania

President Sends Condolences on Nixon Death

LD2404122394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas sent a telegram to Washington expressing his condolences after the death of former U.S. President Richard Nixon, ELTA reported.

The telegram stresses that Richard Nixon was one of the first world-ranking politicians to visit independent Lithuania, promoting in every possible way the reinforcement of human rights and democracy in the restored state.

President Speaks at International Conference

WS2204181794 Tallinn BNS in English 1546 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 22, BNS—More than 53 percent of Lithuania's people work in the private sector, but the contribution of private enterprises to economic growth and efficiency is still hardly felt, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said in his speech at an international conference in Bucharest Friday [22 April].

The four-day Crans-Montana conference, devoted to all-European and regional problems, is attended by representatives of 86 countries and 19 international organizations.

In his speech, Brazauskas said the Lithuanian gross domestic product constantly decreases: by 3 percent in 1990, by 13 percent in 1991, by 38 percent in 1992 and by around 35 percent in 1993. He said a major problem is that the part of the GDP consumed inside the country is growing: 75 percent in 1991, 80 percent in 1992 and around 85 percent in 1993.

The president said attempts to liven up the investment process in Lithuania have been unsuccessful so far. Brazauskas noted that profit taxes were reduced three times in order to stimulate investments from internal sources. In his words, the part of profit or income used for investments may be completely exempted from taxes for 2 or 3 years. Brazauskas also noted that Lithuania intends to adopt a new law on foreign investments.

Discussing the initial stage of state property privatization, the Lithuanian leader said it will have to extended until the end of this year, even though it was supposed to be completed by July. Brazauskas said the process of privatization should be controlled more strictly. But "assertions by some political forces in Lithuania that privatization is hindered, state property is plundered and so on, are unfounded."

The president said "the mass of economically poorly educated shareholders" that formed in the process of privatization for investment checks "does not have any major influence on improving the management of enterprises."

Brazauskas said the standards of living began to improve, although slowly, after inflation and the rise in prices were slowed down last year.

Legal Assistance Pact Concluded With Kazakhstan

WS2204181894 Tallinn BNS in English 1546 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 22, BNS—Lithuanian and Kazakh officials on Thursday [21 April] completed talks on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal cases. The final round of talks was held in Kazakhstan's capital Almaty.

Lithuanian Deputy Minister of Justice Ginataras Svedas and his Kazakh counterpart Sergey Tikhonov initialed a bilateral agreement on mutual legal assistance.

NATO Commander on Aid to Baltics

LD2204204494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Commander in chief of the joint NATO force in northern Europe, General Garry Johnson, currently on a visit in Lithuania, said NATO is ready to increase its aid to the armed forces of the Baltic states. The aid will include both material assistance and consultations provided by specialists in various fields.

On Friday the NATO official was received by chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Ceslovas Jursenas. The guest said that NATO member states are aware of and understand the concern of the Baltic states over their national security. This concern became ever more grounded owing to the unstable political situation in Russia.

In his turn, Ceslovas Jursenas said that Lithuania would feel more safe when Russia withdraws its troops from Latvia and Estonia. He appealed for NATO's support so that a pullout of Russian troops and the demilitarization of the Kaliningrad reagion would be accomplished sooner.

Lithuanian President on Treaty, Russia

WS2104114594 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 21 Apr 94 pp 1, 18

[Interview with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas by Maja Narbutt; place and date not given: "The Treaty Will Be Assessed by Future Generations"]

[Text] [Narbutt] The Polish-Lithuanian treaty will soon finally be signed; it has already been initialed. Why did the negotiations take so long? They started almost immediately after Lithuania regained independence in 1991.

[Brazauskas] Everyone both in Poland and in Lithuania knows the historical contacts between our states and nations. For ages everything has happened between us—both good and bad things. Therefore, the discussion was difficult and protracted.

The treaty negotiations were held in special circumstances. There is a certain category of people who think—I would say—that they love their homeland more than others. These people react in a very special way to anything that occurs in interstate relations. Not only with Poland, even though this problem really causes the greatest emotions. I also mean the relations with Russia.

[Narbutt] However, was it really not possible to complete the work on the treaty earlier? Was it not possible to abandon the demand of condemning "the Polish occupation of the Vilnius area" earlier? Everyone expected the new Lithuanian authorities to be more pragmatic than the nationalistic Sajudis; everyone expected that the negotiations would be accelerated.

[Brazauskas] When the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party came to power after last year's presidential elections, relat point. [incomplete word, sentence as published]. Both parties had to take certain steps to find a solution that would be acceptable. This is when I realized that one cannot look into the past and that Poland did not want that. Let us look into the future, let us think about the future.

If everyone in Europe thought about the past—and in the past terrible things happened, such as World War I, World War II, the revolution, and civil wars—it would not be possible to live a normal life.

[Narbutt] You said much earlier that as far as Polish-Lithuanian relations are concerned, one should look into the future. You said this after the parliamentary elections, which your party won, in the fall of 1992.

[Brazauskas] A treaty is not agreed upon overnight, or within a month. When I became president, lying on my desk was a Lithuanian draft of the treaty which differed a lot from the one that will actually be signed. There were fundamental differences. Step by step we were removing the controversies that existed between Poland and Lithuania.

The treaty that President Walesa and I will sign will be assessed by historians, and future generations as well. They will evaluate the importance of the treaty, its significance for both our states and for Europe.

[Narbutt] The treaty with Poland was a subject of an internal political game in Lithuania. The government found itself under strong pressure from the rightist opposition, which demanded that the treaty include formulations which Poland could not accept. Do you not fear difficulties that may arise when it comes to the ratification in the Lithuanian parliament, as well as a wave of protests against the treaty, in which the past was referred to in one general statement about both countries' sorrow because of the use of force.

[Brazauskas] There are certain people, certain organizations that do not like the treaty. We have already started to explain to them why the treaty must be signed. There was no other solution—we had to regulate the relations with Poland.

If need be, we will explain this over and over again, until this gets across to them.

I do not think there will be any serious problems related to the treaty, any major protests. I would also like to stress that the treaty guarantees the interests of all the citizens of our states, irrespective of their nationality.

[Narbutt] Some of the Lithuanian politicians say out loud that "those who oppose the treaty with Poland push Lithuania into the arms of Russia." What do you think of such a statement?

[Brazauskas] Yes, I do agree with it in a way. In general, all disputes, all the misunderstandings between Poland and Lithuania clearly serve someone. Now, Lithuania wants to go, and is going, in the direction of the West, toward the European structures: NATO, European Union, Council of Europe.

I want to reiterate this: establishing relations with Poland is of great importance to us.

[Narbutt] The initialing of the Polish-Lithuanian treaty has been received with satisfaction in the declaration that ended the recent summit meeting of the presidents of the Baltic Republics in Palanga. It was also stated there that the treaty should be the first step to shorten the distance between the Baltic states and the Visegrad Group.

[Brazauskas] The four states of the Visegrad Group have developed more than we have. This results from the most recent history. The states united in the Warsaw Pact had more possibilities at their disposal than those states that were incorporated in the USSR. We want to be similar to you. Not only Lithuania, but also all the other Baltic Republics are interested in cooperation with the Visegrad Group—both political and economic cooperation.

[Narbutt] It seems that since the last elections the situation in Russia has been heading in a dangerous direction. What is your attitude toward the Russian foreign policy, toward the statements by Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the Baltic states and toward the theory of "close foreign states," as well as the "special interests" of Russia in the Baltic states?

[Brazauskas] What right does Russia have to make any claims to other states? Russia is a member of almost all the international organizations. It wants to be admitted to the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe demands high democratic standards. Such a test must be passed. We have already passed it—we have been admitted.

Such statements are unacceptable, absolutely inadmissible in today's world. And they cannot be put into effect as well. If they cannot be implemented, why say such things? In order to frighten someone? Who needs this?

Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have never volunteered to join the USSR. They were invaded. This is how it should be understood; any claims, speaking about zones of interest are out of place. Russia has taken such a strange approach not only toward the Baltic states, but also toward other countries.

[Narbutt] The concentration of Russian troops in the Kaliningrad Oblast must be cause for European concern, Lech Walesa stated during his recent visit to Latvia. This brought about an angry reaction from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Soon afterward General Grachev, Russian minister of defense, stated that the Kalinigrad Oblast is "a special defense zone" of Russia. Does Lithuania have similar concerns as Poland does?

[Brazauskas] The Kaliningrad Oblast should be demilitarized. I agree with President Walesa. The concentration of troops always causes misgivings—I discussed this at the forum of the UN General Assembly.

The special location of the Kalinigrad Oblast should be used economically, not militarily.

Maintaining its military outpost by Russia in the west is not understandable, all the more so because Russia wants to join the "Partnership for Peace."

[Narbutt] As the second post-communist state, after Albania, Lithuania officially applied for NATO membership. As it is known, none of the states of our region have a chance to be admitted to NATO very soon.

[Brazauskas] We are not so naive as to believe that once we submit our motion, we will be admitted right away. We like the idea of the "Partnership for Peace" as an intermediate stage on the road to NATO. If the "Partnership" is joined by various states, it will not be indispensable for us to join NATO immediately. The dangers, which might exist in the international relations are automatically smaller. The "Partnership" will create a new security system.

I am definitely in favor of Russia's signing the "Partnership." Then it would be possible to look differently at many issues that we have mentioned.

[Narbutt] Before the presidential elections, you told RZECZPOSPOLITA that the president should be a man who restores agreement, reconciles those who are at odds. You have not managed to do that, have you? In the speech that summed up the previous year you said many bitter words about the opposition.

[Brazauskas] Representatives of the opposition have only just left my office. They often come to me and we talk. As far as the moods among the Lithuanian opposition are concerned, it must be remembered that they are quite peculiar. These are people who have done an awful lot for Lithuania; they helped Lithuania regain independence. They were supported by masses; they were not only in power, but on a pedestal as well. And then they lost.

However, it is not all that bad. There is social peace—even though we have many difficulties, such as low wages and low living standards. There is no hatred, no open conflicts. The opposition in Lithuania has every possibility of presenting its views. Have you noticed how extraordinarily democratic Lithuania is? The opposition is shown on television probably more frequently than those who are in power.

[Narbutt] Yes, indeed. And it often attacks you. Despite the attacks of the opposition, you are invariably the most popular politician of Lithuania. In all the opinion polls you occupy the first position, then for a long time there is no one.

[Brazauskas] For the time being.

[Narbutt] It is definitely difficult for you to talk about this, but how could you define the reasons for such popularity?

[Brazauskas] Popularity. I am wondering about it myself. Sociologists should answer this question; however, they only conduct polls. Now, why is it that one politician is backed by 52-54 percent of the people, and another is supported by 6 percent? I do not know. I am not concealing my biography—everyone knows it. I was a member of the party. Just like many others. I was elected the first secretary of the party when the movement of national rebirth started in Lithuania. Sajudis supported me. They saw something in me, they believed in me. At the first congress of Sajudis I was received as a kind of a hero.

[Narbutt] Does your political past never disturb you?

[Brazauskas] Membership in the party is a real burden for me. I knew that it would be so as soon as I was elected president.

[Narbutt] However, most Lithuanians do not evaluate you that harshly. I am again coming back to your popularity.

[Brazauskas] I am over 60 and I sometimes look back. A few years ago no one knew me, that is, the people did not know me, except the people that I worked with—those linked to the industry. Then it simply happened. Perhaps I said certain things louder and more boldly than others. Yes, certainly louder and more boldly. I was attacked for not saying right at the beginning that Lithuania should be fully independent. Well, I wanted each step to be fully considered. It had to be fully considered and it was.

[Narbutt] Your greatest success and your greatest failure.

[Brazauskas] Someone might say that my greatest success is that I am the president. I do not agree with that. It is not a success; it is responsibility.

The most recent period in the history of Lithuania began in 1988—it was the beginning of the fight to regain independence. There were various moments. Also a moment when we—I mean, my party—were down at the very bottom.

The greatest success was that when we came to power over a year ago, we managed to continue the reforms—but not at the cost of the man in the street. This is very important. Nothing can happen at the cost of the people; the entire burden of the reforms should not rest on their shoulders. So far we have not spoiled anything; at any rate, the situation is certainly not worse.

What will happen next—we will see. Life does not end with one party. Anything may happen. Maybe new forces will emerge...